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THE JERUSALEM POST

VOLUME LXIII, NUMBER 18870 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1995 • SHVAT 17, 5755 • SHAABAN 16, 1415 NIS 4.20 (EILAT NIS 3.60)

JORDAN 3 Days \$170
EGYPT 4 Days \$79 see last page
MAZADA TOURS

Pilot killed in mid-air crash of two F-16s

ALON PINKAS
A PILOT was killed and another slightly injured yesterday morning as two air force F-16 jets collided in mid-air during training over the sea west of Palmachim. The dead pilot, Capt. Danny Overest, 22, from Ashdod, is to be buried at 3 p.m. in the military section of the Ashdod Cemetery. The injured pilot was rescued from the sea after he successfully ejected.

While the cause of the collision is under investigation, the prevailing assumption in the air force is that the crash was caused by human error by one or both pilots, possibly precipitated by poor visibility.

The exercise was conducted at an altitude of 15,000 feet (about 4,500 meters), approximately 20 kilometers at sea. It is considered a routine and a relatively uncomplicated exercise.

Col. (res.) Ze'ev Raz, a former commander of the IAF flight school, said yesterday poor visibility should not be a factor with advanced jets, but did not rule out the possibility.

Air force Brig.-Gen. (res.) Ran Peker said battle simulation is part of IAF pilot training and should not be compromised. "This is a very sad accident, but training must go on," he told Channel 2 news last night.

It is unclear whether Overest managed to eject. His parachute and pilot's seat landed in Tirat Shalom, outside Ness Ziona, about six kilometers inland from Palmachim Beach. An inquiry appointed by OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Herzl Bodinger will try to determine whether Overest ejected and was killed in the process, or whether the seat and the parachute broke free in the crash and drifted 30 kilometers inland with yesterday's strong westerly winds.

The debriefing of the surviving pilot, who was injured slightly in the leg, and the control tower recordings of all communications will shed light on the circumstances of the crash.

While the IDF has a standing policy of not disclosing the details of air accidents, mid-air collisions have been reported twice in recent years: between two CH-53 helicopters in 1990 and two F-15 jets in 1988, both in the Judean Desert.

Last month an air force aircraft crashed, killing two. However, the number of air accidents in the IAF as a percentage of the volume of training and the number of sorties flown is low compared to other air forces.

Evelyn Gordon adds:
The Knesset State Control Committee's subcommittee on military affairs yesterday held a meeting on training accidents in the air force - which had been scheduled several days in advance.

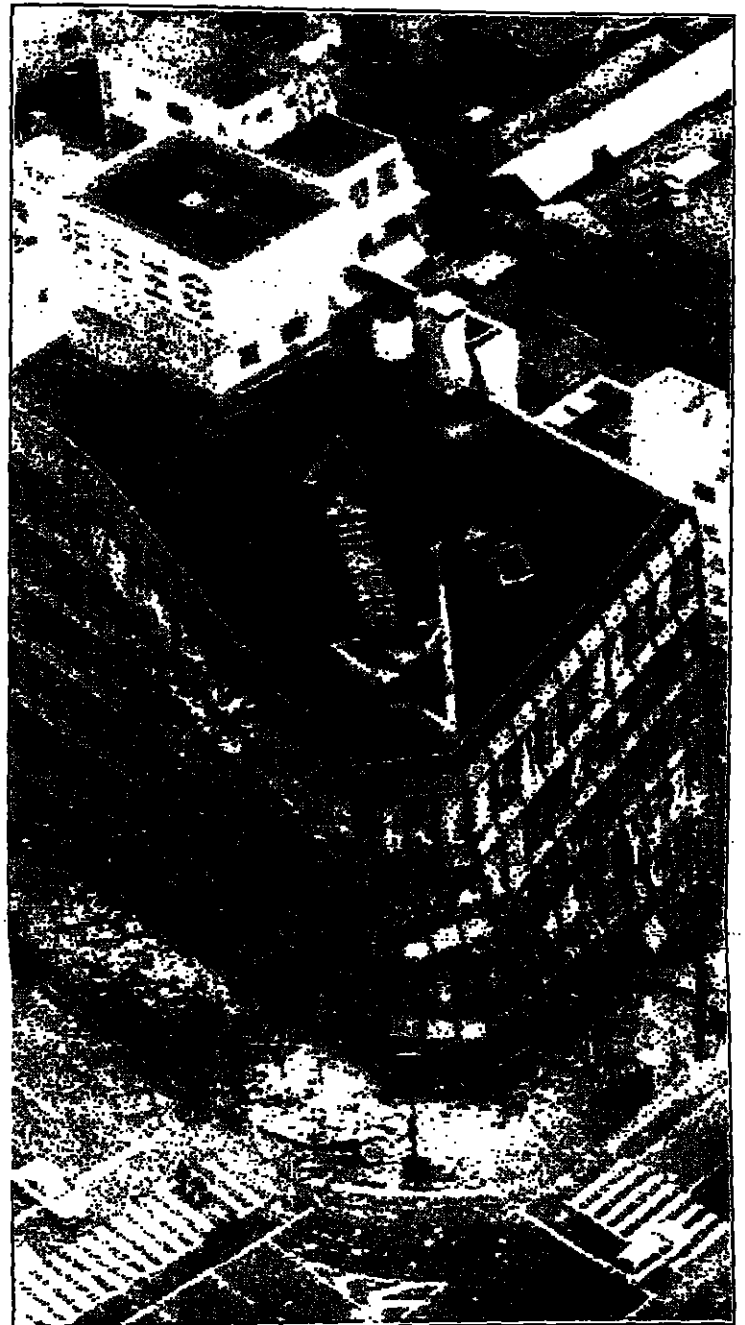
Most of State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat's report on the subject and the committee's discussion is classified. In the non-classified section of her report, Ben-Porat said there are "matters in need of improvement" in air force training procedures and it would be "desirable for the air force command to consider greater involvement in the issues raised in this report."

The problem, she implied, is that the effort to encourage creativity by leaving many decisions to unit commanders sometimes impairs coordination. In addition, she said, there are certain problems which the air force said it lacks the financial resources to deal with.

After yesterday's meeting, however, subcommittee chairman Uzi Landau (Likud) said the committee accepted the explanations given by senior air force officers, and is convinced there is sufficient supervision of unit commanders to ensure proper coordination.



Capt. Danny Overest



An aerial photo of the six-story Mitsubishi Bank in Kobe that collapsed in yesterday's earthquake. The predawn quake devastated the city of 1.5 million people. (AP)

Death toll reaches 1,800 in Japan's massive quake

ERIC TALMADGE
KOBE, Japan
RESCUERS dug desperately through the night and into the early hours of today, searching the rubble for survivors as the death toll reached 1,800 in Japan's worst earthquake in decades.

Hundreds of people still were trapped in twisted, crumbled buildings.

By early this morning - nearly 24 hours after the quake shattered this western port city - 1,800 dead had been counted, national police said. Another 966 people were missing and 6,334 hurt.

Israel offered Japan its army's dog-assisted rescue unit to look for survivors buried under rubble.

Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir instructed Israel's ambassador in Tokyo, Amos Gonor, to convey the offer to Japanese officials, a ministry statement said.

Japanese officials have not yet replied to the offer, the Foreign Ministry said.

Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss sent a letter to his Japanese counterpart yesterday expressing "shock at the news of the strong earthquake which hit Japan."

Weiss offered condolences to the families of the victims and wishes for the speedy recovery of the injured.

About 100,000 people spent the night in shelters in Kobe, where the quake toppled hundreds of buildings, touched off raging fires, collapsed roadways and knocked trains off their tracks.

More than 600 aftershocks hit the area, including about 60 that could be felt, officials said.

Authorities were working frantically to restore vital services: telephones, power and transportation.

Throughout the night, the sky was lit with the eerie orange glow of dozens of fires. Officials told Kyodo News Service that one blaze was near a gas station. At another, firemen stood by helplessly because the quake had cut water supplies.

Many areas had a strong smell of leaking gas.

Tetsuro Shiyomi of Kansai Electric Power Co. said no nuclear plants were damaged by the quake. His company's 11 nuclear plants are in Fukui, about 140 kilometers to the northeast.

Just outside Kobe, damage seemed to be capricious - an intact showroom window at an auto dealership next to four collapsed wooden houses. In the city, rubble was everywhere.

Lina Collins contributed to this report.

Palestinians launch campaign against settlement expansions

JON IMMANUEL and HERB KEINON

SOLDIERS dispersed a Palestinian anti-settlement rally at Al-Bira yesterday, which was one of three demonstrations opening a campaign organized by the Palestinian Anti-Settlement Committee.

The committee was established at a conference last Monday in Jericho sponsored by the Palestinian Authority's Information Ministry.

Rallies were also held yesterday near Hebron and Ariel.

The Al-Bira rally, held in a valley a kilometer below the settlement of Psagot, was the main protest. It was attended by three Palestinian Authority ministers.

Yasser Abed-Rabbo (information and culture), Dr. Azmi Shuaibi (youth and sports), and Dr. Abdel-Aziz Haj Ahmed, (transport). Some 500 people turned up, disappointing the organizers, but nevertheless they were dispersed by soldiers, who said the rally was illegal.

"Any Palestinians seen making their way to the security fence around the settlement of Psagot will be considered possible terrorist infiltrators, and the settlement's security personnel will feel free to shoot," Shlomo Filber, one of the settlement's leaders, said yesterday.

Filber was speaking shortly after Palestinian demonstrators, led by Ahmed Tibi and Abed-Rabbo, marched from Al-Bira in the direction of Psagot to protest land expropriation for a new bypass road.

"If they [the Palestinians] are organizing a committee to protect the land, we need to prepare in the same way and protect our settlements, if the army does not do it," Filber said. He criticized the IDF for allowing yesterday's protesters to approach the settlement's security fence.

Shuaibi and Ahmed Tibi, an adviser to PLO leader Yasser Arafat, were briefly detained. Three youths were arrested, including an American citizen, organizers said.

The IDF denied using firearms to disperse the demonstrators, but several soldiers were seen beating up youths and others fired tear gas, aggravating tempers. A soldier pointed a gun at photographer Khaled Zighari and attempted to break his camera.

Abed-Rabbo, who spoke through a megaphone as he was carried shoulder-high by supporters, said: "This is the beginning of action against settlements."

He and Shuaibi, who belong to The Arab Democratic Union (FIDA), the junior partner of Fatah in the peace process, both called for suspending talks until a freeze is placed on settlement expansion.

"The thieves of the land are killers of the peace process. The credibility of the peace process has been completely lost by the Palestinian people," Abed-Rabbo said.



A soldier forces back a demonstrator yesterday at Al-Bira. (Khaled Zighari / Reuters)

Rabbo said. Demonstrations were also held in Hebron, as protesters marched quietly south toward Beit Haggi to protest a road link with Kiryat Arba. A third demonstration was held at Kafr Dek, west of Ariel. Both were dispersed without incident.

Ghassan Khatib, among the leaders of the People's Party (former communists), said that yesterday's low turnout near Al-Bira can be attributed to the fact that the land expropriated there belonged to town dwellers who do not work the land. "Activities on land near villages attract more people, because people there have to make a living from land," he said.

But some protesters clearly came for other reasons. One who identified himself as Jimmy Hamouda from Yonkers, New York, said he came because, "This is my land, where I'm from, my father, my mother, my whole family are from."

Meanwhile, Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer rejected Meretz criticism of construction in the territories and defended the decision to build four bypass roads in Judea and Samaria.

The expropriation of land "will prevent scenes 10 or even 100 times worse than the near slaughter of an IDF soldier in Ramallah last month," Ben-Eliezer said.

Ben-Eliezer is scheduled to present a detailed report of building in the territories to the government on Sunday. But details of the report have already been leaked, and show that the ministry budgeted some NIS 140 million for construction in the settlements in 1994, and has budgeted NIS 95 million for 1995.

Plans for 1995 including investing some NIS 60 million in 3,200 housing units in the Jerusalem area - in Ma'aleh Adumim, Givat Ze'ev, and Beitar. Another NIS 19 million is budgeted for the construction of 50 housing units and infrastructure in the Jordan Valley. Both these regions enjoy support from a number of ministers.

Remains of murdered soldier Ilan Bastikar found

AMIR ROZENBLIT
SIXTEEN months after he was strangled to death in a Beersheba apartment, the skeleton of Cpl. Ilan Bastikar was found yesterday in the city's garbage dump.

A team of soldiers, policemen, and a tractor driver found the remains of the soldier, who was missing since September 1993. All that was left of Bastikar was his skeleton - draped in tattered fragments of his uniform and wrapped in a sheet - and his military dog tag.

The body, which had been stuffed inside a hot-water heater, was found some 10 meters inside the central section of the Duda'im dump.

Bastikar, 20, of Beersheba, disappeared on his way from home to his Artillery Corps base on September 5. When he did not arrive, concern grew that he had been kidnapped.

A massive search led to the arrests five weeks later of Ya'acov Shmuel, 27, and Yehuda Asayag, 25, both of Beersheba. Both confessed to murdering Bastikar and stealing his rifle.

At his trial in Beersheba District Court, Shmuel said they met Bastikar by chance near their apartment, invited him inside and strangled him. They put the concealed body in a curbside garbage container, which was taken to the dump the same day.

Two months ago, Shmuel was found guilty of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment. Asayag's trial is still under way, but he has recanted his confession.

Shohat, Dayan in showdown today over long-school-day amendment

NEGOTIATIONS between Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and rebellious Labor faction chairman Eli Dayan are to continue early this morning, in a last-ditch effort to reach a compromise on Dayan's long-school-day amendment before today's vote on the Economic Arrangements Law.

Dayan's representative, MK Amir Peretz (Labor), met with Shohat last night to try to hammer out a compromise, but Shohat refused to budge from the government's previously stated position.

Shohat, Peretz, and Dayan are due to meet again at 7:30 a.m. today. The vote begins at 11 a.m.

Dayan is insisting that the school day in distressed neighborhoods be extended at least until 3 p.m. next year, while Shohat says he is unwilling to alter the faction's decision to only extend it until 2 p.m.

Peretz's compromise proposal, accepted by Dayan, is that Dayan's idea be applied in a smaller number of schools than he had originally wanted next year - and only for two days a week.

In addition, instead of extending the long school day to the entire country in two years, Peretz proposed that it would happen gradually.

This would enable the change to be made along with, rather than instead of, other changes considered essential by the Finance and Education ministries, such as installing air conditioning and reducing class sizes.

If no compromise is reached, however, Dayan insists he will buck party discipline and bring his amendment to a vote today, and a handful of other Labor MKs are promising to support him.

"I want to vote with my party," Dayan said. "But MKs also sometimes have just demands."

Dayan admitted that the government has already made great concessions in his direction: It decided to extend the school day until 2 p.m. in distressed neighborhoods, and to set up a committee to determine how to implement a long school day in the rest of the country - including until what hour the school day should last.

"But we still haven't solved the real problem of the long school day," he said. A real solution, he explained, must include a firm commitment to extend the school day until at least 3 p.m.

Meanwhile, the pressure to give in is mounting from some of his fellow MKs.

"I told [Dayan] in the clearest language that if he votes for his amendment, he must resign immediately. He cannot continue to be faction chairman," said Knesset Finance Committee chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor), who met with the rebellious MKs yesterday.

"I don't think there is any place for a compromise," Gal added. "Factional decisions cannot serve as a basis for compromises or additional demands. It would be better for [Prime Minister Yitzhak] Rabin to go directly to the president [and ask to form a new government]. He must be strong."

1 dead, 33 hurt in school bus accidents

A HIGH-SCHOOL student was killed and 33 other pupils were injured, in two separate bus accidents apparently caused by slippery roads.

A bus bringing a group of Givat Olga pupils to Jerusalem on a school trip overturned last night on the Ramot-Givat Ze'ev road near Nebi Samwil, after it skidded on a curve and crashed into an embankment. (Continued on Page 2)



Rabin justifies 'natural' expansion within settlements

DEVELOPMENT in the territories is a question of "dimensions," Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was quoted as telling the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday.

"There is a difference between natural increase and meteoric development," he said, citing the building of extra classrooms as construction done to accommodate natural increase.

"We stand by our obligation that no building will take place outside Israeli sovereign territory except for cases where it is necessary in live settlements, and the building of 10,000 housing units which had already been started," he said. He did not define what he meant by "a live settlement."

Regarding the dimensions of "Greater Jerusalem," Rabin later told reporters. "The borders of united Jerusalem are those agreed upon by the government in 1967 and by the Jerusalem Law [1981]."

He said he would prefer building in areas

LIAT COLLINS
and DAVID MAKOVSKY

within the city boundaries, such as Har Homa and the Shuafat Ridge, over the development of places like Ma'aleh Adumim, Betar and Givat Ze'ev, which are outside the municipal borders, although here too he would allow for "natural increase."

But Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer insisted that construction in Ma'aleh Adumim did not contradict government policy, and that the ministry planned to build 3,200 housing units in Ma'aleh Adumim and Givat Ze'ev.

"These building plans are known, and the areas of Ma'aleh Adumim and Givat Ze'ev were not included in the plans to freeze building in the settlements," he told Army Radio.

Meanwhile, Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said there is no such thing as "Greater Jerusalem," and said he would push for a construction freeze everywhere outside of the

Jerusalem municipal boundaries when the issue comes up at the cabinet on Sunday.

"I have no idea what Greater Jerusalem is. Jerusalem is Jerusalem. Its boundaries have been set by law, and all the rest are people piggybacking on Jerusalem. For the city's sake, the piggybackers should be left off," Sarid said. "Expanding settlements and the peace process do not go together."

Opposition MKS on the Knesset committee condemned the joint protests in the territories by left-wing Israelis and Palestinians.

"It has to be stopped immediately or else it won't end in Judea, Samaria and Gaza but in Wadi Ara," Sharon was quoted as saying.

A few Labor MKs, including Emanuel Zisman and Avigdor Kahalani, also denounced the demonstrations, which Zisman, in a statement, termed "protecting Palestinian interests at the expense of ours and Jerusalem's."

He also protested the pressure by Meretz on Rabin to halt the building in the Jerusalem metropolitan area.



A policeman points to bus damage in the Tel Aviv accident.

(Israel Sun)

(Continued from Page 1)
One of the pupils was killed and 16 others were injured, five of them seriously.

Eight ambulances rushed to the scene and took those with severe or moderate injuries to Jerusalem hospitals. Four pupils with light injuries were brought

by passing motorists to Hadasah-University Hospital at Mt. Scopus.

An hour earlier, 17 children riding home from school were injured when one bus rear-ended another in southern Tel Aviv.

One child suffered a broken leg, and the others suffered light injuries.

The driver of the bus said he lost control of the wheel and skidded into the other bus, which had stopped.

More weather-related accidents, Page 3

ACCIDENTS

Islamic meet vows to defend rights in Jerusalem

IFRANE, Morocco (AP) — Islamic diplomats voted yesterday to create an agency to defend the rights of Palestinians in Jerusalem and to protect their cultural heritage.

The 16-nation Jerusalem Committee, an affiliate of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), condemned reported moves by Israeli authorities to close down Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem. The committee asked the UN Security Council to intervene.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat was at the Ifrane meeting.

Creation of the new agency, to be called the Emergency Agency for Jerusalem, was proposed by Morocco's King Hassan II, chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, during a two-day meeting in this Moroccan resort. One of the agency's goals will be to raise funds to pre-

serve Arab sections of the city.

In a communique following the meeting, the committee said:

"[The committee] welcomes the proposal of His Majesty King Hassan of Morocco... to create an Emergency Agency for Jerusalem to defend the rights of Palestinians over the city and support the struggle of its people and safeguard its historical, cultural, religious and architectural identity."

The communique did not say how much the emergency fund expected to raise from the 52 members of the OIC or from private sources. But Pakistani Foreign Minister Asif Ahmad Ali said its target was \$100 million.

The communique affirmed support for "the resistance by the Palestinians of Jerusalem to Israeli (settlement) plans" and urged OIC

members to contribute towards the "reconstruction of the city of Jerusalem, provision of housing and restoration of its monuments, with a view to safeguarding its Islamic identity..."

The communique also urged all countries to comply with UN Security Council Resolution 478 by not moving their embassies to Jerusalem.

Although this has been a standard clause in previous OIC resolutions on Jerusalem, delegates said it was addressed specifically to the US following remarks by Newt Gingrich, the new speaker of the House of Representatives.

Gingrich said on Israel Television on Sunday that he was strongly in favor of moving the American Embassy, which is in Tel Aviv, to Jerusalem.

Amal calls on SLA to abandon role in zone

DAVID RUDGE

THE Amal Shi'ite movement yesterday joined in the psychological war against the South Lebanese Army.

In statements carried in Lebanese newspapers yesterday, Amal called on members of the SLA to "abandon the repulsive role given you by the [Israeli] enemy and escape to the liberated areas [north of the security zone] while there is still a chance for repentance."

The reports in the Beirut press also carried details from Amal of the SLA soldier's gunmen reportedly captured during operations in the central sector of the security zone on Monday.

The reports said the captured soldier had served in the SLA for over 20 months and had twice been on training courses. There was no confirmation from other sources that Amal had taken an SLA soldier prisoner.

The Amal movement, headed by Lebanese parliament speaker Nabih Berri, has recently stepped up its operations against IDF and SLA targets in the zone, apparently in an effort to improve its

image and prestige.

Hizbullah, Amal's rival in the struggle for the hearts and minds of Lebanon's Shi'ite community, has itself been waging a concerted psychological war against the SLA for several months, as well as perpetrating most of the attacks against the security zone.

The Beirut newspapers reported that Lebanese army gunners had fired at an IDF position at the Beaufort Castle on Sunday, in response to IDF and SLA shelling of the Nabatiya area.

Meanwhile, a French news agency yesterday reported that the IDF was reinforcing its troops and armor in the security zone, although UNIFIL sources reported seeing no unusual movement in the areas supervised by the international peacekeeping force.

Gangster's brother shot

Ilan Aslan, the brother of underworld figure Yehzekel Aslan who was murdered two years ago, was shot in the back as he entered a snooker hall in south Tel Aviv late last night.

He was taken to Ichilov Hospital, but his condition was still not known at press time.

The shooting took place just three days after underworld figure Moshe Alperon was seriously wounded when a bomb planted in his car exploded.

PA claims donor funds have not been received

LAMIA LAHOUD

THE Palestinian Authority received less than one-third of the money pledged to it by donor states in 1994, making it difficult to proceed on any major infrastructure projects, Palestinian officials said.

Only some \$240 million of the \$787m. pledged has been received, according to PA Economics Minister Ahmed Qreia.

Qreia is also the managing director of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR), which is responsible for channeling money to public sector projects.

According to Samir Houteila, the PECDAR liaison to agencies funneling money to the PA, the PA has received almost none of the money pledged for infrastructure projects in Gaza, which are meant to create jobs and improve the quality of life.

According to Houteila, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat managed to convince the donor states and the World Bank at a meeting in Brussels at the end of Novem-

ber to divert some of the money allocated for projects to covering the PA's expenses. This enabled the PA to cover most of its 1994 budget, and even raise salaries by about 15%.

But so far, only \$20m. has been dispersed by UN agencies and donor states for infrastructure projects, he said. Some projects to repair the sewage, water, and electricity systems have been started, but most major investment projects cannot get off the ground without more funding.

While funding for public sector construction is being held up, private investors who deal directly with Arafat are doing well, Palestinian sources said.

The housing industry is beginning to boom in Gaza's rich Rimal section, close to the sea shore, where local businessmen, often in partnership with Palestinians abroad, have begun to build luxury apartments.

Omar Sarraj, a wealthy Gaza businessman, said the contractors are Gazans who use local workers.

Kahalani to gov't: Sell apartments in Ariel

Labor MK Avigdor Kahalani said the government should sell finished apartments in Ariel that it has not yet allowed to be marketed.

Kahalani, on a "study tour" of Samaria with members of the Third Way movement, said he

was "astounded" that the government had not allowed the apartments to be sold.

He said the Palestinians should not interfere in the country's security and defense policy, and that we should "throw Ahmed Tibi back to his home in Taiba."

Prisoner release on agenda at Rabin-Arafat meeting

DAVID MAKOVSKY
and LAMIA LAHOUD

A FIVE-member ministerial panel will meet today to discuss criteria for Palestinian prisoner releases, in advance of tomorrow afternoon's meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat at the Erez checkpoint.

The primary issue to be discussed at the Rabin-Arafat meeting will be expanding Palestinian self-rule.

The ministerial committee consists of Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, Justice Minister David Liba'i, and Police Minister Moshe Shabai, together with Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

There is expectation that at the end of the Rabin-Arafat meeting, the release of at some of the female prisoners being held by Israel will be announced. There are approximately 6,000 Palestinians still in prison.

The focus of the Rabin-Arafat meeting is to be the IDF

redeployment away from Palestinian populated areas. It remains unclear whether the IDF will be allowed to reenter Palestinian cities and 400 villages throughout the territories once it has redeployed away from those areas, and if so, under what conditions.

Israeli officials insist that negotiations are still dealing with principles and "no maps have been opened."

Rabin and Peres held private

talks yesterday to plan for tomorrow's meeting. A bigger session involving other peace negotiators and senior IDF officials is to take place tomorrow morning, before the Rabin-Arafat talks.

Palestinian Authority officials believe progress can be made at tomorrow's meeting between the two leaders. A PA official said last week's meeting between Peres and Arafat last week was

very positive. The official said the Declaration of Principles does not rule out the IDF's gradual redeployment.

But, he added, the Palestinians insist on a plan that commits Israel to redeploy everywhere and to evacuate all the population centers before elections. How this will be done is to be discussed by Rabin and Arafat.

According to PA official Hanan Asfour, settlement expansion in Judea and Samaria will also be raised at the Rabin-Arafat meeting.

He said the Palestinians oppose any changes on the ground that could have influence on the final status talks. They therefore oppose dismantling small settlements and merging them into larger settlements.

This, Asfour argued, would turn large settlements into cities, that Israel would then refuse to discuss during final-status talks.

Assad said to be preparing Syrian people for peace

LIAT COLLINS

SYRIA is preparing its people for the possibility of peace, according to IDF Intelligence Branch research head Brig.-Gen. Ya'acov Ami-Dror. President Hafez Assad is preparing for the possibility of recognizing Israel, but would not agree to leasing out land, Ami-Dror told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin agreed with Ami-Dror's analysis, although it contradicts what Ami-Dror told the committee a few weeks ago. Ami-Dror said his new analysis follows Assad's recent statements in Cairo.

"Assad is preparing his people for the possibility of difficult decisions," Ami-Dror was quoted as saying.

"For Assad to decide to sign an agreement with Israel at a certain price is a difficult decision. To see

the Israeli flag flying in Syria is also difficult."

Rabin told reporters after the meeting that, "Syria has begun to think in terms of normalization, although it is still difficult for the Syrian public to digest the idea of embassies and open borders."

Ami-Dror said Syrian propaganda is now stating that security conditions after Israel's full withdrawal must be "balanced, equal, and considered on both sides of the border."

"I see that as more than a Syrian agreement to a demilitarized zone on both sides of the border," he said.

He stressed the Syrians would be more ready to accept precedents from the Egyptian peace treaty than unprecedented arrangements, but they do not fa-

vor the idea of leasing out land, as agreed with Jordan.

Regarding the situation in Lebanon, Rabin said Syria is still the channel for arms and funds from Iran to Hizbullah and that terrorist activity there is supported by Syria.

Referring to a parliamentary question by Dov Shilansky (Likud), Rabin said that while there is no written agreement with Hizbullah, an understanding had been achieved after Operation Accountability via American mediation.

"There is an understanding between us and [US Secretary of State Warren] Christopher and between him and the Syrians. My address in cases of violations is the US," he said. Rabin added that unless Hizbullah is disarmed, Israel would not start peace negotiations with Lebanon or Syria.

US engaging in point-counterpoint on Golan Heights

HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

CONCERNED with lobbying efforts against stationing US troops on the Golan Heights, the Clinton administration has requested and received an opportunity to rebut those arguments on Capitol Hill.

Senators Jon Kyl (Arizona) and James Inhofe (Oklahoma) late yesterday hosted a briefing conducted by former Pentagon deputy secretary Frank Gaffney, who has been a consistent critic of plans to introduce US troops to monitor an Israeli-Syrian peace deal.

The briefing was arranged to educate freshman senators on an issue "they will have to deal with... eventually," a Capitol Hill aide said. "The purpose is to have an open discussion of the Golan issue, the pros and cons," the aide added.

When word of the meeting got out recently, "we [were] asked by the State Department to have Dennis Ross come in and address

the group as well."

Kyl and Inhofe have agreed, the aide said, adding that a date has not been set yet for Ross's appearance.

Gaffney heads the Center for Security Policy, a local think tank, while Ross is the Clinton administration's peace process coordinator.

The request to have Ross brief the same senators on why the US favors the troop option "was definitely in response to Gaffney," the aide said.

Clinton administration officials could not be reached.

The US has maintained that debating the merits of a US troop deployment is premature, given that Israel and Syria have not concluded a peace agreement.

Last week, Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich briefed Kyl on Israel's position on a US military presence, stressing that a potential dispatch of troops was years away.

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Design '95

On February 17, 1995, the Weekend Magazine will include a prestigious new supplement on Home and Garden Design. Subjects include interior and exterior design, renovation and decoration, kitchens, bathrooms, furniture and more.

To advertise in this supplement call Moshe Forman at The Jerusalem Post Tel Aviv office:
Tel. 03-6390333 • Fax 03-6390277

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

The weekly meeting of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will meet this evening for a gala dinner at the Laromne Hotel at 7:30 p.m. Visiting Rotarians from Israel and abroad are invited.

In deep sorrow, we announce the passing of
Ing. ERNEST FRANKENFELD

He bequeathed his body to science.

The Frankenfeld,
Klein and Dolyna Families

سكنى من الاصل



President Ezer Weizman drinks a toast with Swaziland Ambassador Mavis Litchfield, one of four new ambassadors to present their credentials yesterday. The others were from Uruguay, the Czech Republic, and Thailand. (Isaac Harari)

Court rules 'sex-line' to be subscriber only

JUDY SIEGEL
and EVELYN GORDON

BEZEK will within a month cancel the automatic access of all phone subscribers to the 056 talking-sex lines; after which only those subscribers who specially ask for access will get it.

Communications Ministry Director-General Shlomo Wachis issued these instructions to Bezek yesterday, after the High Court of Justice upheld their legality and rejected a petition by suppliers of 056 services.

The petition was filed by Telad Ltd., a supplier of 056 services, following the creation of a new code, 057, for informational services, leaving 056 to be devoted exclusively to talking sex.

Telad lawyer Jacob Amster had argued the new regulation would infringe on its freedom of occupation, saying customers

would not want to subscribe to the service in writing, when they can receive the same service anonymously, for the same price, by direct dialing to the US.

In response, government attorney Yehuda Scheffer argued there are some services a person has a right not to have in his house without his express consent. Even cable TV, he noted, requires an explicit request by the customer.

Furthermore, he said, there have been numerous complaints — especially by parents — about the 056 service. Some 800,000 people have already canceled their 056 service, he told the court.

Justices Gavriel Bach, Theodor Orr, and Ya'acov Kedmi will give their reasoned decision for their ruling at a later date.

The 056 lines — initially intended to supply information about the stock market, medicine, astrology, and a variety of other subjects — quickly turned into a sex line. Many subscribers complained about receiving bills for hundreds or thousands of shekels in calls to 056 they claimed were never made, or that outsiders or children had placed without their knowledge.

Anyone who previously asked to be disconnected from 056 will automatically be denied access to 057, unless he calls 199 and asks to be hooked up again. For all other subscribers, access to 057 lines will be automatic.

Singer Ofer Levy arrested for tax evasion

SINGER Ofer Levy was arrested yesterday by tax authorities on suspicion he did not pay an estimated NIS 1 million in taxes over the past few years.

Levy, one of the country's leading singers of Oriental music, was brought before the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday and released on bail.

Tax investigators suspect that Levy did not report hundreds of thousands of shekels in income from royalties on the sale of cassettes and compact discs. They suspect Levy personally supplied thousands of cassettes and discs

to stores. Levy admitted that he did not report the royalties to tax authorities, the investigators said.

Moreover, they said Levy had admitted that the owner of a record store, Yitzhak Barkai, paid Levy NIS 650,000 in royalties from the sale of his music, but did not report his income from the sales to authorities.

Barkai was also arrested and released on bail. (Itim)

Labor Party falling from favor among CIS immigrants

Jerusalem Post Staff

SUPPORT for the Labor Party among immigrants from the CIS has plummeted in the past eight months, according to a survey conducted by Teleset for the Tsomet Party.

The poll, taken in May and December 1994, indicated that 12.9 percent of CIS immigrants would vote for the Labor Party in May. In December, 2.3% said they would vote for Meretz, compared with 3.0% in May.

On the other hand, the poll found an increase in support for the Likud, from 17.6% in May to 18.9% in December.

At a news conference in Tel

Aviv yesterday, Labor Party Secretary-General Nissim Zvilli said that in advance of the next elections the party had begun to organize its activities among new immigrants. Zvilli promised that slots would be reserved for new immigrants on the Labor Party's slate and in the party's institutions.

He said this would ensure representation of new immigrants and would help "fight against the establishment of ethnic-based parties."

However, the poll found that popularity had doubled for an im-

migrants party: 13.7% in December, compared to 7.2% in May. Tsomet support rose to 3.8% in December from 1.8% in May.

However, almost half of those questioned did not express any political preference.

The poll divided the immigrants into two groups — those who have the right to vote and those that would vote if they could.

Other questions included changes in their financial situation compared with a year before: 33.1% said there was an improvement, 44.9% said there was no change, while 19.5% said their condition had worsened.

Driver skids to death in weather-related crash

DAVID RUDGE

A MOTORIST was killed and several others were injured in a spate of weather-related road accidents in the north yesterday, as the winter storm crossed many parts of the country.

The fatal accident occurred on the Wadi Milik road, not far from the Fureidis junction, when a car skidded out of control on a bend, swerved into the opposite lane and crashed head-on with an army truck. The driver, from Rishon LeZion, died instantly.

More accidents were reported later in the day near Yesud Ham'ala, Kibbutz Ravid, and near the Someh junction in the north, as thunderstorms, accompanied by hail, driving rain, and strong winds swept the region.

Safed and northern Galilee hilltop villages, including communities on the upper reaches of the Golan, went on snow alert last night as temperatures plummeted to zero and, in some cases, below.

Heavy snow fell on Mt. Hermon yesterday with accumula-

tions reaching over 60cm on the lower slopes and over 1.2m on the peak.

The ski site was closed yesterday but manager Eli Sagron said that weather permitting they hoped to open for visitors and skiers by the end of the week.

The sudden return of winter, after two weeks of dry and sunny weather, is expected to have a marked impact on the level of water in Lake Kinneret which has only risen by 17cm since the beginning of the month.

Mekorot officials said the water level was just 1.23m from the maximum mark, increasing the possibility that the Deganya sluice gates at the southern end of the lake will have to be opened before the end of winter to prevent the lake overflowing.

The Beit Dagan meteorological service said the cold, wet weather would spread to most parts of the country today before dying out tomorrow, although it would remain colder than usual over the weekend.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Film shows S. Africa Jews under apartheid
The role of South African Jews under apartheid and in the transition to majority rule will be examined in a documentary to be screened tonight on Channel One.

Changing Colors was directed by Judy Herbstein who returned to her native South Africa, after a long absence, on the eve of last year's historical elections. The 52-minute film was produced by the Israel Film Service and Israel TV.

MK Katz: Government must help Laniado
Knesset Labor and Social Affairs chairman MK Yossi Katz yesterday demanded that the government and the Netanya Municipality cover the deficit of the city's Laniado Hospital.

"I ask them to take care of the hospital no less than they are concerned for the welfare of the hotels," Katz said yesterday at a joint meeting of the Labor and Finance committees convened to discuss the hospital's deficit.

Health Ministry Director-General Mordechai Shani has called on the Treasury to ensure that the hospital's budget is balanced.

Haredim protest again at Beersheba dig

About 50 haredim initiated disturbances yesterday at an Antiquities Authority emergency dig in Beersheba, where they claim Jews are buried. Four of the protesters were arrested.

It was the fourth haredi demonstration at the site since the authority started its work at an Israel Electric Corp. facility, which the IEC wants to expand. During the construction, Byzantine graves were uncovered and human bones were found which archeologists say are not those of Jews.

The bones will be reburied in accordance with an agreement reached recently between the authority and the Religious Affairs Ministry. Amir Rozenblit

New technique corrects penile defect

Jerusalem doctors have used mucous membranes taken from the inside of the lower lip to correct hypospadias, an inherited defect affecting 200 to 300 newborn baby boys a year, in which the urinary opening is on the underside of the penis.

Dr. Hezi Landau, a Hadassah-University Hospital urologist, learned the technique at the Children's Hospital in Canada. In some cases, in which urine exits near the tip, the defect is mild, but in others, the hole is near the scrotum. This can interfere not only with normal urination but also prevent intercourse.

A new urethra has to be built because the one the baby was born with is too short, says Landau. The best tissue for this is the foreskin. But if an operation using foreskin fails, mouth tissue works well, because it exists naturally in a non-sterile location and is not prone to infections.

Finance c'ttee prefers tax breaks to education investment in poor areas

EVELYN GORDON

THE time is not right for replacing the tax breaks given to residents of "national priority areas" with increased investment in education, due to the recent rise in the tax burden, the Knesset Finance Committee decided yesterday.

At present, most residents of "national priority areas" enjoy a 10% income tax reduction. Finance Committee chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor), backed by a bipartisan group of committee members, has been trying for years, however, to cancel this tax break and use the approximately NIS 350 million saved thereby for increased investment in education in the periphery. A better educational system, Gal argued, would do more to attract people to the periphery than a couple of hundred shekels off their tax bills — especially since some 50% of development town residents do not earn enough to pay taxes, and therefore do not benefit from the reduction.

However, many development town mayors — with their own strong supporters in the committee — opposed Gal's idea, saying tax breaks were the best tool with which to attract the more well-

off, which their towns desperately needed.

In the end, the issue was decided by a group of MKs in the middle, who supported Gal's approach in principle, but said the timing was wrong. The recent creation of new taxes, such as the health and organization taxes, makes this a bad time for increasing the tax burden in any other way, explained Yossi Vanunu (Labor).

Because of this, the committee even rejected a compromise proposal whereby the tax breaks would be canceled gradually over a four- to five-year period.

As a result, Gal said, the committee will almost certainly decide to continue the tax breaks in their current formula, even though "everyone agrees that continuing of the current situation is unjust." This is because many towns are arbitrarily included in or excluded from the "national priority areas."

However, Gal said, no one in the committee wants to adopt the new map prepared by director-general of the Prime Minister's Office Shimon Sheves, and he

"sees no chance" of the committee being able to prepare a map of its own.

"We missed an opportunity to create a revolution in education in the periphery," he said.

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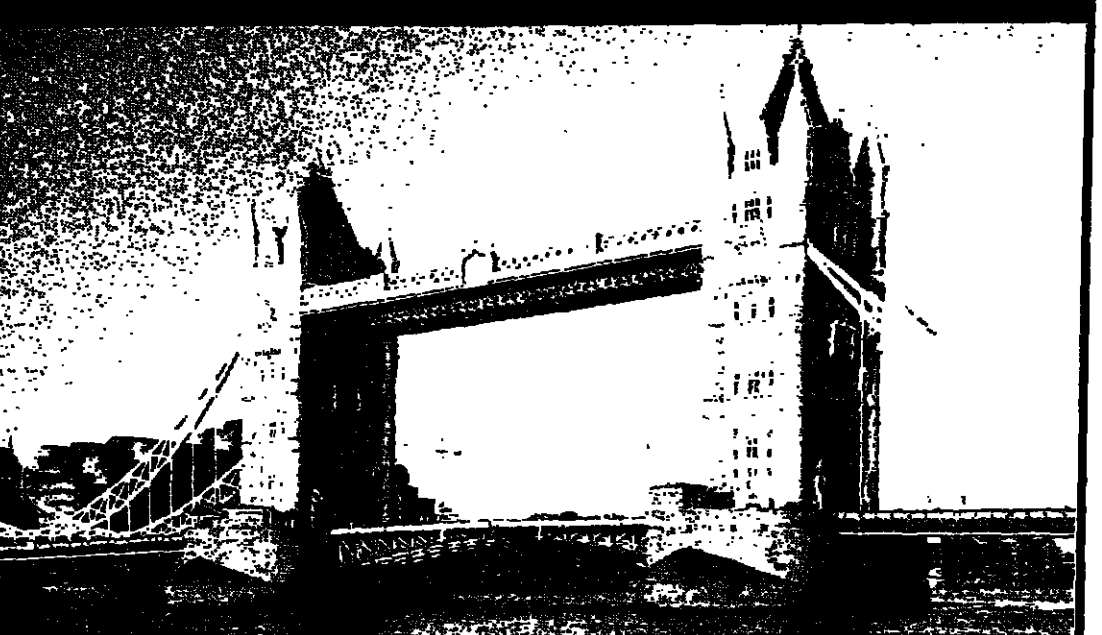
Mozart, Duo in B flat for violin and viola; Spohr, Duo in D major for 2 violins, op. 67; Kodaly, Serenade for 2 violins and viola, op. 12; Dvorak, Tzetzetto in C major, op. 12
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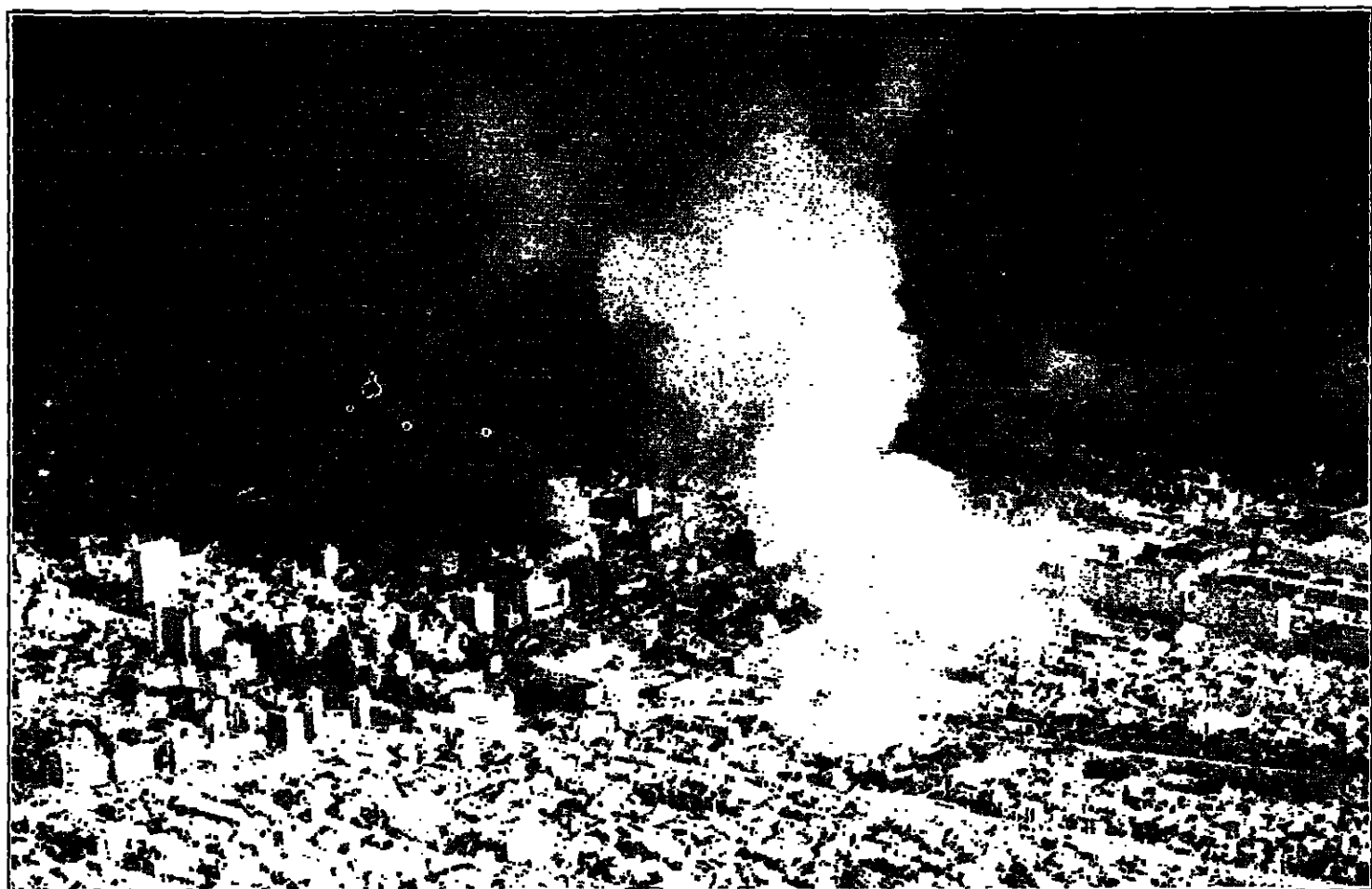
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Jerusalem Post

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Dark smoke hovers over downtown Kobe in the aftermath of yesterday's earthquake. Over 1,800 are reported dead and another 700 missing in the worst quake to hit Japan in nearly 50 years. (AP)

A walk through a devastated city

WE left our car about 15 kilometers outside Kobe on a badly cracked bridge and began to walk toward the red sky.

At first, signs of damage were intermittent. There were garbage cans and boxes full of broken dishes and glass that people already had cleaned up and set out for collection.

As we continued to walk, we began to see cracks in the roads and sidewalks, tiles broken off roofs and some collapsed fences.

About 10 kilometers from Kobe, in Nishinomiya city, we saw our first completely collapsed house, an older wooden structure with heavy ceramic tiles on the roof.

In one place, an auto dealer's showroom window, about 6 by 9 meters was intact. Next door lay the wreckage of about four two-story wooden houses that had collapsed.

Traffic jams extended into Kobe all the way from Osaka, Japan's second biggest city, about 70 kilometers to the east. Most of the

ERIC TALMADGE
OSAKA, Japan

vehicles were ordinary cars, apparently carrying people trying to get home or check on relatives.

Ambulances and fire trucks were stuck in the traffic. Burglar alarms were going off in many buildings, including some banks. They apparently were set off by the quake. No looting was visible.

Shoji Yasui, 63, his wife and two sons were standing on a street corner in front of their collapsed two-story, 70-year-old house.

"This is nothing compared to what you're going to see down there," he said, pointing toward Kobe as he warmed himself in front of a fire he had made.

People with blank expressions stood around, wrapped in blankets against the cold.

In one rare show of emotion, a girl drove up near some friends, opened the door and fell out of the car crying.

Dozens of fires still were burning nearly 24 hours after the quake. Next to one, three fire trucks were parked, its firemen standing by helplessly because the quake had cut water supplies. In many places, there was a strong smell of leaking gas.

Taxi driver Rikihiko Sumino said he escaped serious injury because his blankets padded him when a dresser fell on his bed.

"I never dreamed we'd get hit by a quake like this here in Kobe," Sumino said. "I figured it would happen in Tokyo, but I never thought it would happen to us."

He added: "You really can't trust those experts. They all said that this wouldn't happen. They said our highways and buildings were safe, not like America. But we've proven them wrong." (AP)

Clinton remembers California quake, offers help to Japan

NORTHRIDGE, California (AP) — President Clinton, commemorating the one-year anniversary of California's killer earthquake, yesterday ordered a high-level delegation to Japan to help Tokyo cope with the "extraordinary fury" of its quake.

Clinton delivered his speech at California State University-Northridge, a campus heavily damaged in the 1994 quake. His tour of a rebuilt science building was canceled after three devices resembling pipe bombs were found.

With billboards featuring scenes of the 1994 Northridge earthquake forming a backdrop, Clinton said he ordered Federal Emergency Management Administration and Transportation Department officials to Japan.

He said the United States "sends our profound condolences."

Gen. John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is already in Japan and has promised US military support, Clinton said.

M&Ms to get new hue: pink, purple or blue

NEWARK, New Jersey (AP) — Pink M&M's anyone? How about purple or blue?

Sweet-toothed Americans began voting Monday for the newest color to be added to the bags of coated chocolate drops.

M&M-Mars is looking to spice

up its 55-year-old candy to reflect the changing color preferences of the 1990s.

Voters have until March 17 to pick up a ballot and register their preference — pink, purple or blue.

For traditionalists, there is a fourth choice on the ballot: Leave the colors alone. The company will announce the winner April 18.

The traditional M&M mix of brown, yellow, orange, red, green and tan candies has remained unchanged since 1949 — except for a decade-long leave-of-absence by the red drop, removed in 1976 because of what the company says was a misplaced concern over the food dye. Red returned in 1987.

Major earthquakes this century

Some of the 20th century's most destructive earthquakes. The location is followed by the magnitude and the number killed.

May 21-30, 1960, Chile, 9.5 (revised from original estimate of 8.3), 5,000.

March 2, 1933, Japan, 8.9, 2,990.

August 15, 1950, India, 8.7, 1,530.

December 16, 1920, China, 8.6, 100,000.

August 16, 1906, Chile, 8.6, 20,000.

March 27, 1964, Alaska, 8.4, 131.

December 21, 1946, Japan, 8.4, 2,000.

January 15, 1934, India, 8.4, 10,700.

January 24, 1939, Chile, 8.3, 28,000.

May 22, 1927, China, 8.3, 200,000.

September 1, 1923, Japan, 8.3, 100,000.

April 18-19, 1906, San Francisco, 8.3, 452.

August 8, 1993, Guam, 8.1 to 8.2, none.

May 23, 1989, Macquarie Islands, 8.2, not available.

November 23, 1977, Argentina, 8.2, 100.

July 28, 1976, Tangshan, China, 7.8 to 8.2, official figure: 242,000. unofficial estimates: as many as 800,000.

September 19, 1985, Mexico, 8.1, 9,500.

September 12, 1979, Indonesia, 8.1, 100.

August 17, 1976, Philippines, 7.8, 8,000.

September 16, 1978, Iran, 7.7, 25,000.

February 4, 1978, Guatemala, 7.5, 22,778.

June 21, 1990, Iran, 7.3 to 7.7, 50,000.

October 10, 1980, Algeria, 7.3, 4,500.

November 23, 1980, Italy, 7.2, 4,800.

October 30, 1983, Turkey, 7.1, 1,300.

December 7, 1988, Soviet Armenia, 6.9, 25,000.

September 30, 1993, India, 6.4, 9,700.

Chechens claim cease-fire but Russia talks tough

GROZNY, Russia (Reuters) — Chechen officials said yesterday that they had agreed in principle with Russia to halt the fighting in Chechnya beginning this evening, but Moscow did not confirm any cease-fire and kept up its tough talk.

In the Chechen capital Grozny, Russian gunners continued to pour shells onto the city yesterday afternoon and warplanes made at least two rocket strikes as Russia pressed on with efforts to smash Chechnya's drive for independence.

Chechen fighters still held the presidential palace, the battered fire-scorched symbol of Chechen resistance.

Interfax news agency reported that about 1,160 Russian servicemen had been killed so far in the Chechnya conflict, increasing pressure on the Kremlin to end the war either by a quick military victory or by negotiations.

Signs of movement on talks emerged when Chechen Justice Minister Usman Inayev said after meeting Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin that agreement had been reached in principle on a cease-fire.

An agreement has been reached on stopping the bloodshed on the basis of halting military actions," Inayev told reporters after talks in Moscow. "It is possible to say that shooting will stop from

tomorrow (this) evening."

But official Russian reports made no mention of any cease-fire and said Chernomyrdin had given Chechnya's separatist leader, Dzhokhar Dudayev, a last chance to order his fighting units to end resistance to Moscow.

"V. Chernomyrdin underlined that Dudayev and his circle have a last chance to prove their willingness to stop more bloodshed and show their real ability to control the situation," it said.

A government source said Chernomyrdin, who proposed a truce on Monday, had told the Chechens they must stop shooting first to prove their goodwill and the Russians could then follow suit.

'Boring' Geneva found top in quality of life

GENEVA (Reuters) — Geneva, often dismissed by its detractors as the world's most boring city, offers the highest quality of life of any metropolis around the globe, an international business group said yesterday.

In a study of 118 cities, the group found Canada's Vancouver in second place with Toronto and Montreal also in the top 10. Singapore was the leading Asian city in ninth place and New Zealand's Auckland was 10th.

US cities, pulled down by problems of crime and personal security, fared badly in the report by the Geneva-based Corporate Resources Group (CRG). Their top scorer was Boston, coming 30th on the list, while New York was 44th.

CRG, which provides personnel consulting to companies in 30 countries, based its findings on the level of security, public services, medical and health structures and political and social stability in the surveyed cities.

In the bottom 10 under all four headings and in the overall ranking were the three big crime-hit centers of the former Soviet Union — Moscow and St. Petersburg in Russia, and Kiev, now the capital of independent Ukraine.

Also among the worst 10 performers were the Chinese cities of Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou — largely because of low availability of consumer goods, medical services, pollution levels, housing and poor public services.

Bottom of the list came Algiers, capital of Algeria, where many foreigners have been killed over the past two years as Islamic guerrillas have sought to oust a military regime and deter outside investment.

The CRG said US cities — among which San Francisco, Seattle and Chicago came in at 31st, 33rd and 34th positions — scored highly on political stability, availability of goods and quality of medical services.

Also high from the Asia-Pacific region were Australia's Sydney in 13th place, Melbourne in 19th, Perth in 23rd and Brisbane in 25th. The New Zealand capital, Wellington, came in 20th, according to the report.

Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and Manama in Bahrain were the top cities among Middle Eastern countries, although standing in the middle of the overall list.

Dini presents cabinet list for latest Italian gov't

ROME (AP) — Premier-designate Lamberto Dini fashioned Italy's latest government yesterday, weighing it heavily with professors and judges, but immediately ran into trouble.

Leaders of the outgoing conservative coalition of media tycoon Silvio Berlusconi said they would not support his cabinet when it goes before Parliament for approval.

Scaifaro was to swear in the cabinet last night.

Dini's announcement ended four days of intense maneuvering by Berlusconi and his allies to make sure some of their men remained in what will be Italy's 54th postwar government.

But Dini rebuffed those efforts and heeded to the line of President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, who had tapped the former central

banker on Friday to compose a cabinet of "technicians" without party ties.

Dini announced his list at a news conference after he met with Scalfaro. On it were Susanna Agnelli, sister of Fiat head Giovanni Agnelli and a foreign ministry undersecretary in four previous governments, as foreign minister; former armed forces chief of staff Domenico Corcione at defense; a high court judge, Antonio Brancaccio at interior; and Filippo Mancuso, an ex-prosecutor at the appeals court, as justice minister.

Dini kept the treasury portfolio, which he held under Berlusconi. He said he chose "persons of great experience and unquestionable impartiality" as a way to deal with a "moment of particular difficulty" in Italy.

German Catholic group decries Auschwitz dispute

BONN (Reuters) — A German Catholic group yesterday criticized a Polish-Jewish dispute over the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, saying it did harm to the memories of the 1.5 million people killed in the death camp.

The German chapter of Pax Christi, an international peace group, said the dispute between the Polish organizers of commemorations on January 26 and 27 and leading Jewish groups had overshadowed the memory of the victims' suffering.

"Nothing can harm the memory of the victims and the dignity of this place as much as the unfortunate dispute about protocol questions that we are now seeing," it said in a statement.

In Warsaw, Andrzej Zakrzewski, a presidential aide who is in charge of the observances, denied reports that Nobel Peace laureate Elie Wiesel, an Auschwitz survivor, had not been invited, or that he would have his speech written for him by President Lech Walesa's office.

"How can one tell a Nobel laureate what he is to say?" Zakrzewski said, adding that Wiesel had been sent an invitation and was expected. The New York Times reported Monday that Wiesel had not received an invitation or been told what role he would play in the ceremonies — and therefore had not decided whether to attend.

US justices allow dismissal of Holocaust survivor suit

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — The US Supreme Court yesterday brought to an end a legal battle by a Holocaust survivor against the German government for injuries suffered as a Nazi concentration camp prisoner during World War II.

The high court justices, without comment or dissent, let stand an appeal court dismissal of the lawsuit filed by Hugo Prinz seeking to recover monetary damages for his injuries and for the slave labor he had to perform.

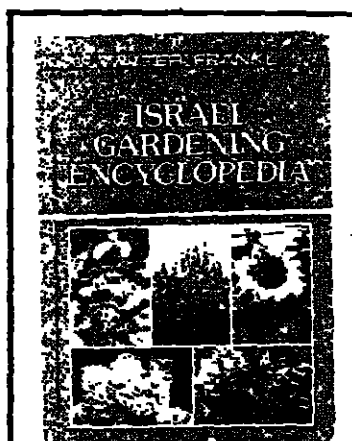
When the United States declared war against Nazi Germany in 1942, Prinz, an American and a Jew, was living with his family in what is now Slovakia. The Slovak police arrested the entire family and

turned them over to the Nazi SS. For a number of technical reasons, Prinz was denied any reparations from the German government program after the war.

After the US government was unable to resolve the issue of compensation through diplomatic negotiations, Prinz filed suit in 1992 against Germany.

A federal judge initially ruled the case could proceed to trial, but a divided US Court of Appeals last year ruled that Germany enjoyed sovereign immunity and dismissed the lawsuit.


The Supreme Court refused to hear the appeal by Prinz, who had the support of a number of Jewish groups in seeking high court review of the case.



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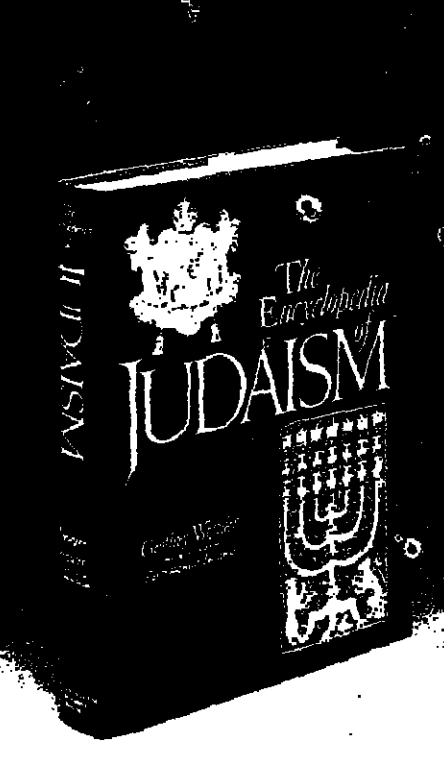
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مكتبة من القرآن

Arab intellectuals struggle for a new identity

SUSAN SACHS
CAIRO

FOR most of 1994, a year of startling change and crumbling taboos in much of the Arab world, the genial playwright Ali Salem has found himself the target of weekly attacks in the Egyptian press.

Savaged as a traitor by many of his fellow intellectuals in Egypt and surrounding countries, he isn't sure whether to be amused or depressed by all the fuss. After all, what engendered such venom was the simple fact that he dared to visit Israel.

"There is what can be called a terror of creativity among Arab intellectuals, an aversion to individualism," said Salem, a big rumpled man whose book about his journey became an Egyptian best-seller even while being excoriated for promoting normalization with Israel.

"These intellectuals have become extensions of Arab governments, which fear normal relations with Israel because they're afraid of being modern, of being forced to liberalize their economies and their politics," he added. "But I received many, many letters of support. The ordinary people in the street are ready to change from a military mood to a peaceful state of mind."

The highbrow criticism in Egypt over Salem's April visit to Israel is emblematic of a wider debate among Arab writers and thinkers that fills newspaper and magazine pages and dominates cultural gatherings throughout the Middle East.

After decades of knowing where they stood — that is, in rejection of the Jewish state as a colonial implant in the Middle East — the Arab cultural elite appears to have lost its ideological footing.

Writers and political philosophers who saw the world in terms of the Arab-Israeli conflict now seem adrift in a period of accelerating change, when the question seems no longer if, but when, there will be a regional peace.

Normalization of political and business relations with Israel has brought pressure for a wider range of contacts, especially in the field of culture. But here, the door has so far virtually remained shut. Egypt, which signed a peace treaty 14 years ago, still has almost no cultural or scientific exchanges with Israel.

"Intellectuals should refrain from any compromises or reneging on positions," the respected Egyptian commentator Salama A. Salama wrote recently in the biggest Arabic newspaper, *al-Ahram*. "The voice of their conscience must sound loud and their principles must not bend. Hence, the 'other' party will never cease to feel the scourge of being unaccepted and even rejected."

"People keep saying, 'Oh, the Israelis are going to invade us culturally.' But they know nothing except the vocabulary of war," said Salem. "The truth is that when you collide with another civilization, you begin the re-birth of your own."

Another troubling issue for many Arab intellectuals is that rejecting peace with Israel makes them allies of religious fundamentalists.

That's a position particularly irritating to people such as Shalima, who feel no affinity with Muslim conservatives.

"Intellectuals are... in a dilemma," wrote Palestinian-American academic Edward Said in *al-Ahram* recently.

"Either they appear rejectionist and anti-peace, or they seem like instruments for their governments and of Israel by going along with peace more or less opportunistically. The fact is that in both instances Arab intellectuals today have only extremely limited, impoverishing alternatives."



Turkish women protest against the country's 106% inflation rate in 1994 during a rally in Istanbul earlier this week. (AP)

Algerian militants set tough peace conditions

A radical Islamic faction has offered a conditional end to violence that includes applying "the law of God" against the nation's generals.

The exiled leader of Algeria's main fundamentalist movement said the communiqué by the Armed Islamic Group was a "very good sign" — despite harsh conditions set — if it proved authentic.

Last Friday, opposition parties, including the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front, reached an agreement in Rome for a negotiated end to the crisis.

The radical Armed Islamic Group said it wanted authorities to accept the platform for peace set out in Rome last Friday in exchange for an "end to the war."

While the conditions set out would represent harsh concessions for the military-backed government, the communiqué itself would

mark a change in policy by the Armed Islamic Group. It has in the past refused all negotiations.

The group has taken credit for most of the killings of foreigners and Algerian journalists in the mounting violence and the Christmas Eve hijacking of an Air France jetliner.

The Armed Islamic Group demanded the "immediate and unconditional liberation" from prison of one of its chiefs, Abdelhak Layada, sentenced to death, and another member, Ahmed Weddi; the "application of the law of God" against "the generals," accused of having "slowed down the application of the Islamic project;" and the banning of all "communist and atheist parties."

If the Rome accord were "applied to the letter," the Salvation Front could convince Islamic fighting factions to put down their arms.

Opposition parties at the Rome meeting set out a plan for negotiations to end the violence.

The accord seeks seven measures before talks are opened, including the freeing of jailed Salvation Front leaders and political detainees, an end to torture and reprisals against civilians and lifting of a state of emergency in place for three years.

The accord also seeks a "condemnation and a call to end... attacks against civilians, foreigners and the destruction of public property," a reference to violence on both sides.

Besides the Salvation Front, the Front for Socialist Forces and the National Liberation Front, the party which once ruled Algeria for 30 years, took part in the Rome meeting. The three parties gained some 80 percent of the votes in January 1992 legislative elections with most votes going to the Salvation Front. (AP)

Kuwaitis 'chilled' by talk of new ties with Iraq

KUWAITIS feel a "chill" at the prospect of resuming relations with former occupier Iraq while President Saddam Hussein's government remains in power, Kuwait's prime minister said in remarks published yesterday.

Sheikh Saad Abdullah Sabah added in an interview with *al-Wakeel* newspaper that Iraq still had an aggressive attitude to Kuwait despite its November 1994 recognition of the emirate and continued to hold Kuwaitis detained in its 1990-91 occupation.

Asked if Kuwait would resume relations with Baghdad even if it implemented Gulf war resolutions satisfactorily, he replied: "If you ask this question to anyone in the street he will feel some form of chill."

"Does the matter end with recognition? Of course not. Iraq should implement all of the Security Council resolutions, the most important of which is the release of our detained and hostage sons still in Iraqi prisons."

"We have learned the lesson. Who committed the aggression? The ruling regime in Iraq. Who killed many of our sons and raped our daughters? It was the Iraqi regime. Who still holds our detainees? Also the Iraqi regime," Sabah added.

The interview was published on the fourth anniversary of the start of the Gulf War.

Sabah, whose government last week was urged by Dubai Crown Prince and United Arab Emirates

Defense Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Maktoum to reconcile with Iraq, said Kuwait was not Iraq's only target.

"No doubt our brothers in the Gulf realize that the intentions of this regime are expansionary and aggressive and that Kuwait is not targeted alone," he said.

In Abu Dhabi, the UAE's official news agency WAM on yesterday published an interview with Maktoum which it said would appear in Kuwait's *al-Siyasah* newspaper today.

Maktoum reiterated comments he made last week urging Kuwait and its people to "build bridges of love" with Iraq.

Kuwait says Iraq is holding up to 600 Kuwaitis and third country nationals. Iraq says it has no knowledge that any Kuwaitis detained during its occupation are still being held but has promised to investigate the allegation.

"It [Iraq] still has many aggressive intentions, but that does not mean that we are against the Iraqi people. What some say about the United States, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia being behind the siege and the hunger of the Iraqi people is not true," Sheikh Saad said.

He noted UN Security Council resolutions passed during the Gulf crisis allow Iraq to sell \$1.6 billion worth of oil for the purchase of food and medicines subject to UN monitoring.

Iraq has refused to do so, saying the monitoring would infringe its sovereignty. (Reuters)

Hussein's new gov't reflects cautious change

JACK REDDEN
AMMAN

KING Hussein, seeing both dangers and opportunities in Jordan's peace treaty with Israel, has come down on the side of caution with a government of familiar faces led by a former armed forces commander.

The newspaper *al-Rai* said the focus of the government sworn in at the beginning of the week evening had been defined in the naming of Sherif Zeid Bin Shaker as premier for the third time in six years: "The letter of designation reflects a continuity in governing."

For months, before and after the signing of a peace treaty with Israel last October, members of the government and royal family had talked of the need for quick reforms to capitalize on the economic opportunities presented by ending 46 years of conflict.

However, there has also been a growing effort to dampen Jordanian expectations against quick benefits and repeated warnings that opposition to the controversial peace treaty would be tightly controlled.

The need to overhaul the business atmosphere was mentioned as the government was changed, but diplomats noted an emphasis on maintaining stability as Jordan enters an unpredictable post-peace world.

"That's been the message for months: whether you like it or not, Jordan has signed a peace with Israel and that's the way it's



Jordan's King Hussein and Prime Minister Sherif Zeid Bin Shaker (left of Hussein) stand with members of the new cabinet. (AP)

going to be," said a Western diplomat, who predicted little economic innovation.

The tone is set by the choice of Bin Shaker to head his third government in six years. His first term was in 1989 when he was called in to take over when the previous government was forced from office by price riots.

Bin Shaker, a close friend of the king and member of the Hashemite royal family, had been commander of the armed forces for 12 years until 1988.

A profile of the returning prime minister in the *Jordan Times* newspaper quoted him saying: "I do not consider myself a professional politician. I am a professional soldier, which is the

job I have chosen from the beginning."

For his new 31-member cabinet, Bin Shaker tapped more than 10 men from his previous governments. More important, former colleagues hold key portfolios such as finance, foreign affairs, industry and trade.

The peace treaty with Israel, while a momentous step after decades of animosity, has not by itself solved any of Jordan's political and economic problems.

In the Arab world, it remains shunned by Saudi Arabia and most Gulf states, while signing a treaty further strained cool relations with Syria.

A collapse in the increasingly precarious Israeli-Palestinian

peace would have repercussions inside Jordan, where many believe a majority of the population originated as Palestinian refugees.

Inside Jordan, the peace treaty holds the promise of economic opportunities, but aside from the almost instantaneous rise in Israeli tourism, Jordanians will not feel an improvement in their own lives in the near future.

In the weeks preceding the king's decision to switch from Prime Minister Abdul-Salam Majali, the man who signed the peace pact, officials and even the king have been playing down hopes of a quick peace dividend.

When an Israeli chamber of commerce delegation visited

Amman this month, a dinner hosted by the new Israeli embassy attracted scores of guests. But less than 10 were Jordanians — including one government employee — while the rest were foreigners.

In appointing the new premier, King Hussein alluded to the fears of outright opposition to Jordan's new path with Israel or a growing disappointment.

The switch, he said, came at a time "when we see people are obsessed by various feelings of optimism or expecting drastic changes in their lives in the era of peace and as we witness others discouraged, as they are not convinced by peace and are acting towards its failure." (Reuters)

No security in north Iraq as Kurds battle

LEON BARKHO
BAGHDAD

FIGHTING by rival Kurdish groups in northern Iraq has led to a breakdown of law and order in parts of the region, a senior UN official said this week.

"There is no real security. Law and order is diminishing," Mohammed Zejjari, United Nations coordinator in Iraq said.

Zejjari spoke after reports began emerging from northern Iraq of fierce clashes between rival Kurdish groups, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) headed by Massoud Barzani and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

Iraq's ambassador to Ankara Rafi Tikriti said on Sunday that thousands of civilians died in a month of fighting between rival Kurdish militias and caused an exodus from north Iraq. He told Turkey's Anatolian news agency in a report from Ankara that thousands of civilians had been killed in the Kurdish-held city of Arbil alone.

Zejjari said reports from UN troops and relief officials spoke of heavy fighting on Sunday in Arbil, regional capital of Iraqi Kurdistan and home to about one million Iraqi Kurds, although he had no reports of mass movements of population.

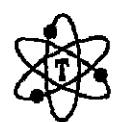
"Yesterday there was fighting. For the time being in Arbil city we are unable to do our work," Zejjari added he feared for the safety of staff in the area, including 82 UN troops and 120 international relief officials.

"Six trucks loaded with food were looted by the population," he said. Relief convoys are accompanied by UN guards.

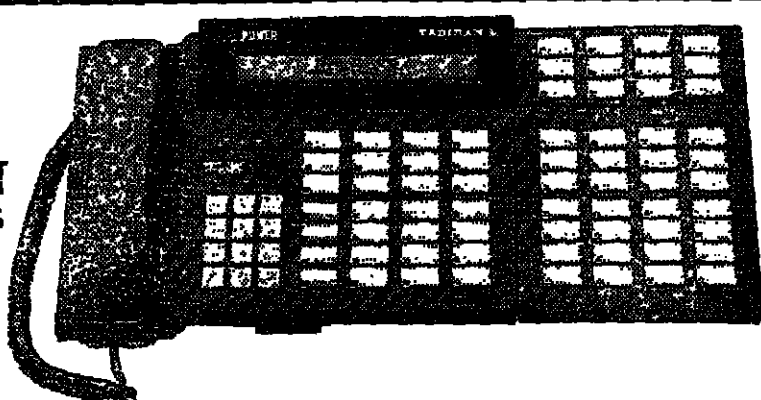
It was the first time such incident was reported by the UN in northern Iraq. (Reuters)

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The immigrants' poll

TO those who are acquainted with immigrants from the former Soviet Union the recent findings of the poll on immigrant absorption, commissioned by the Jewish Agency, come as no surprise. That only 10 percent of the 1990-1993 arrivals "have fully adjusted to life in Israel" seems a reasonable reflection of the truth.

Nor should the figure be too discouraging. Such polls were not taken among immigrants in the past, but it is a safe bet that the number of those who felt "adjusted" within four years (or less) of their arrival in Israel was not larger. And it is probably true that the rate of adjustment among immigrants in the US or anywhere else is no better. Only children can be integrated quickly in a new environment. For adults the transition to a strange country, where culture, language, ethics and the system of government are different, is almost always difficult and lengthy if not painfully traumatic.

Even the fact that 15% of immigrants in the 20-24 age group want to leave the country is not unusual. In previous immigrations the number of "defectors" would be drop-outs was higher. Experts believe any immigration of which half voluntarily stays in the country of destination should be considered successful.

A far more discouraging finding is that only 26% of the newcomers would recommend to friends and relatives in the CIS to come to Israel. It is one thing not to feel fully integrated in a new country in the first years; quite another to believe integration is not worth the effort.

It is this finding which must bring into question the role of Israeli society in the absorption effort. Unlike other immigration countries, Israel considers Jewish newcomers not immigrants but returnees. To view them as dry statistics, to measure them according to their economic usefulness, or to let them fend for themselves is to ignore the Zionist purpose.

This is why Israel does more than any other country to help new immigrants finance housing, learn the language and find a job. But if the poll's findings show anything, it is that the effort is inadequate. The fact is that the loans guaranteed by the US for the express purpose of helping aliyah have not been put to this use. Nor has the government made the kind of financial effort it has made to save the kibbutzim or the

Clalit health fund from bankruptcy.

But perhaps even more important than the material contribution is the willingness to make immigrants feel welcome. In this, too, the general population has found it difficult to overcome the stranger-resentment so typical of other societies. With the kind of cynical sensation-mongering so characteristic to the yellow press in other countries, the local media have blown up the seamy by-products of the immigration out of all proportion.

The spotlight has been directed at the criminals, drug addicts, prostitutes and invalids among the immigrants. Even Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Ora Namir has parroted these distortions with irresponsible disregard for the facts. Neither she nor the press seem to realize that the numbers of anti-social types is smaller per capita among the 500,000 new immigrants than in the veteran population.

Nor has much been said about the fact that these new Israelis have significantly raised the level of education, art, theater, music, science and technology in the few short years they have been in this country. Even the eagerness of young newcomers to join combat units - yesterday revealed to be greater than the veteran population's - is hardly known.

As the elections approach, the immigrants will be seen as neither a problem nor a boon, but as voters who can send at least 12 representatives to the Knesset. Undoubtedly, the government will now find the financial resources to launch employment-generating projects; the ministers' language will undergo a thorough cleansing; and the wooing of immigrant leaders by all political parties will be ardent.

But it is doubtful that the immigrants themselves will be easily seduced by election-year economics and campaign rhetoric of the major parties. It is far more likely that they have "adjusted" sufficiently to the way political agendas are pursued here to decide on forming a political party of their own. There seems to be enough agreement among them on the basic changes that have to be made, not only in the narrow field of immigrant-absorption but in general economic policy. If nothing else, their presence in the campaign will force the electorate to view the problems of immigration and absorption from a fresh perspective.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"KISS OF DEATH"

Sir, - Having been among the 300 participants at the international conference in Jerusalem of the Association of Professors for a Strong Israel, I wholeheartedly agree with Dr. Manfred R. Lehmann's letter of January 6. It was "extraordinarily successful," with "an amazing assembly of top-ranking officers" as speakers, warning of the perilous direction this government is taking in appeasing Arab appetites vis-à-vis Israel's future.

I must take strong exception to only one thing he wrote: "It was remarkable that nearly all participants were secular Jews," as this was a gross exaggeration. Among the assorted rabbis that were invited to give greetings from the podium, I doubt if even one was Conservative or Reform. Symptomatic of something wrong was MK Yigal Bibi's invited short greetings, ending with a jocular "I have to get back to the Knesset now to vote on the [non-kosher] meat [importation] bill," with titillation and nodding heads throughout the hall.

The Orthodox should be commended for being among the fore-

most pioneers in setting up villages in the administered territories, something that we, the secular majority, failed to match, and they, more than others, are steadfastly bearing the brunt of hardship, anxieties and insults from the far left. However, the Orthodox, here and abroad, make up perhaps only 20 percent of Jewry, and most ignore the justifiable umbrage that the majority of Jews take when the elitist Orthodox attempt to make inroads (much of it gratuitous) on our own cherished way of life. Is this the way to convince many of the majority to join them in the fight against appeasement of our mortal enemies? As it is, I am convinced, unfortunately, that a strong presence of Orthodox in the ranks of the steadfast repels them, a veritable "kiss of death."

My suggestion is that rational Orthodox Jews take a good look at their actions and remember the saying, "you catch more flies with honey than with vinegar."

PROFESSOR R. KENNETH
Rishon LeZion.

CHRISTIAN FRIENDS OF ISRAEL

Sir, - In "Rabin rejects Christian churches' call for international guarantees for Jerusalem" (December 29), Haim Shapiro says "the Christians" demand international instead of Israeli rule in Jerusalem.

After years of religious reporting, what's his excuse for such confusion? He should correct, not perpetuate, the notion prevalent in many ignorant European circles that the

politics of the Roman Catholic Church and its tradition-bound sisters speaks for "the Christians."

Several Christian Zionist organizations and many congregations in Jerusalem, reflecting millions of Bible-believing Christians abroad, uphold Israeli rule in Jerusalem. It is biblically ordained and has proved fairer for Christians and other non-Jews than any rule Jerusalem has had in 2,000 years, or could expect from the UN or any other conceivable international (or papal-authorized) governance, certainly from what could be expected if, God forbid, Israel's appeasement crowd were to yield any control over Christian matters in Jerusalem to Arafat and Islam.

Christians whose faith rests on the Bible rather than tradition or human authority are Israel's best friends.

GRANT BOOTH LIVINGSTONE
Jerusalem.

Haim Shapiro comments:

The report should have indicated that the signatories of the memorandum were the heads of the historic churches, which are the Christian communities officially recognized as such by the government of Israel.

For an ambitious high-school pupil, learning Arabic is a road to nowhere.
PETER MASSEY
Kibbutz Eilon.

SHVIL HAZAHAV

Sir - Chuck Davidson's letter of December 30 reflects a total lack of understanding of Shvil Hazahav and its mandate.

Our public statement of principles clearly indicates that "ultimate decisions concerning the security of the state must be made by the democratically elected government of Israel as the voice of its people. Furthermore, we have spoken and written on numerous occasions concerning the limited nature of the role that Diaspora Jewry can play in the ongoing peace process."

Shvil Hazahav was formed to counteract the overwhelming negative public statements and activities of the Orthodox community at the time of the onset of the peace process. We believe that only those Jews living in Israel can be full participants in the determination of events surrounding the peace process. We also believe, however, that the Orthodox Diaspora community has a role to play: Jews in the Galut must build bridges between our community and the current Israeli government. Such connections will enable us to express to the government the concerns of our constituents, in forums of mutual respect. We also believe that Shvil Hazahav can play a role in communicating to the American community the very complexities of the peace process to which Mr. Davidson refers.

Shvil Hazahav is filling a void and creating a positive constructive link between the American Orthodox community and the Israeli government.

Please God, the time will come when we will all accept Mr. Davidson's challenge to fulfill our dreams and make aliyah. Until that time we will act responsibly within the limited role appropriate to a Diaspora community.

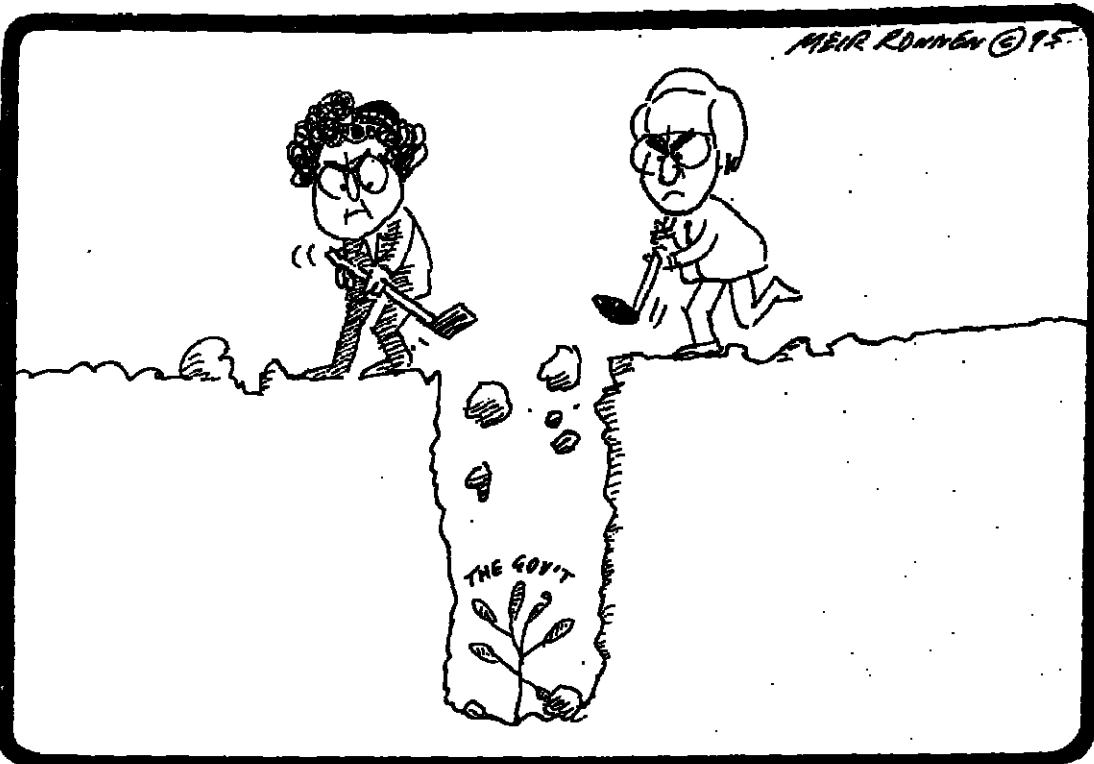
RABBI SHMUEL GOLDIN
Englewood, New Jersey.

DEATH OF AN INNOCENT GIRL

Sir, - We all heard about the demonstration of "rightist activists" after the terrorist murder of Ofra Felix. But what of the leftists, or centrists? Where are they?

Has our country become so politicized and so divided that political opinion determines whether you can feel (and show) pain over an innocent girl's death?

HALLIE KON
Givat Shimon.



Security cuts two ways

YEHUDA Z. BLUM

(attributed to Prime Minister Rabin himself) or a gradual withdrawal that would reduce the security risks inherent in such an evacuation.

The practicality of a "temporary withdrawal" may well be questioned. It is unlikely that Hamas and Co. would invite the IDF to return after the elections. Rather, the IDF would have to fight its way back to the evacuated areas and the world would be

Contrary to popular perception, redeployment isn't a synonym for withdrawal

exposed to Groyz-like pictures - hardly a boon to Israel's image abroad.

IT HAS been argued by the PLO and its Israeli supporters that free and democratic elections, as required under Article III(1), cannot be held under "foreign occupation."

Experience doesn't bear this out. Japan's first genuinely democratic elections were held after World War II under American occupation, even without "international observation." And the first elections that led to the establishment of the Federal Republic of Germany were held in the three western zones of occupation in that country.

It might even be quite plausibly argued that elections in the absence of the IDF are likely to be less free and democratic, for they would subject the electorate to unimpeded intimidation by Hamas etc.

Of course, Yasser Arafat's ostensible interest in seeing the IDF evacuate as large a part of the West Bank as possible is equally obvious. An IDF presence there during the elections may well play into the hands of his opponents, even to the point of their boycotting the elections and further eroding his already shaky authority in the Palestinian camp.

From Israel's point of view, the paramount concern must remain security on both sides of the Green Line. The DOP recognizes this: Article VIII provides that, during the interim period, "Israel will continue to carry the responsibility for overall security of Israel."

All other considerations (including the extent and limits of redeployment) are thus subordinated to this central concern, categorically stated in Article VIII, as distinct from the desideratum contained in Article III (1), that "Israel will be guided by the principle" of redeploying outside populated areas.

Contrary to popular perception, "redeployment" isn't a synonym for withdrawal. It is not a one-way street. Israel is entitled to an appropriate military presence wherever such a presence is required for the proper fulfillment of its responsibility for the security of Israel.

It is therefore quite conceivable that the evacuation of some locations and the resulting increased security needs may necessitate increased Israeli military deployment in other locations previously considered less exposed from the security standpoint.

The writer, a former ambassador to the UN, holds the Hersch Lauterpacht chair in international law at the Hebrew University.

Unequal slicing of the cake

YOSEF GOELL

A worrisome item of information was buried in some recently published economic statistics.

The annual report of the Treasury's State Revenue Administration for 1994 found that the gap in incomes between rich and poor has grown since 1990.

Two decades ago, Israel was one of the most egalitarian countries in the world. It now has the widest gap between rich and poor of any Western industrialized nation, with the exception of the US.

The average monthly income in the richest decile during 1994 was NIS 13,500, or 3.7 times the average income during that year. The average monthly income of the top percentile was NIS 27,500, or 7.6 times the average income. The top one-tenth accounted for 37 per cent of all incomes in 1994, compared with 35 per cent of total incomes in 1990.

For the local clones of the US Republicans, who believe that the height of human achievement was the period of rampant robber-baron free-market capitalism of the late 19th century, when "wealth was wealth and the Devil hadn't yet invented the progressive income tax," this should be good news.

For the rest of us, it is sorry confirmation of long-term trends we have been only vaguely aware of.

HOW INCOMES and wealth are distributed in any society is a reflection of social, economic and political realities. How we feel about this distribution is a question of values and national culture.

A major cause of societal mal-

aise over the past two decades has been the glaring gap between inequality in income and wealth distribution and the basic egalitarian values of most Israelis.

Far from being an expression of Marxism or "Bolshevism" - as our knee-jerk free-marketters are wont to cry whenever they perceive the slightest threat to their personal economic interests - this streak of egalitarianism is

Deep down, Israelis aren't happy with a society where the rich get richer and the poor get poorer

an expression of the deep-rooted Jewish attitude according to which one Jew is as good as another. In East European shtet life at the end of the last century, the first nouveaux riches were hated and derided.

In early Israel, the innate Jewish tendency toward egalitarianism was strengthened by the early domination of the socialist Labor-Zionist stream, and even more by the fact that this was a new-immigrant society under existential threat.

Veteran Israelis are at bottom egalitarian in sentiment because nearly all of us arrived here without any property or wealth at all. We are thus very aware of how the recently rich among us made their fortunes. Very rarely has their enrichment reflected any particular genius or been the reward for a contribution to society.

Given our basic egalitarian tendencies, it is important that we first stop, and then determine to reverse, the trend toward greater economic inequality, with the attendant inordinate emphasis on material values as the key to a good life.

One of the greatest dangers facing Israel is the determination of many of our elites to emulate the cheapest and worst aspects of American life.

The alternative isn't the discredited communism of Eastern Europe. The relative figures on income distribution and reports on the relative quality of life in the countries of the democratic and industrialized West should leave no doubt that the American model - as expressed in the US economy, health, education and urban blight - is the worst, not the best, of models.

In a letter to the editor, Albert I. Goldberg of Haifa (*The Jerusalem Post*, January 9) correctly pointed out that the Rabin government has been a major culprit in this short-sighted determination to "Americanize" Israel, in the worst sense of the term. But the Likud has been equally oblivious to the damaging aspects of blindly aping another culture.

Israel is now in the midst of a slow and far-reaching political realignment. One thing that may emerge from this process is a new political alliance from among elements of the older parties of the right, the left and the religious Zionists. This would emphasize the centrality of a more egalitarian, culturally independent and self-assured Israel.

The writer comments on public affairs.

Deadly relics

LEON MOSS

Last week, a 13-year-old Arab boy named Abu Daher, a resident of the Gaza Strip, tried to open "a metal tin" that his two-year-old cousin had brought into the house. It was an old mine, probably a relic of the 1967 war. It blew up, killing the boy and seriously injuring two small children who were with him.

Abu Daher became one more casualty in the tens of thousands of deaths caused worldwide over the past two decades from exploding mines.

In every country that has been involved in war or civil strife lie thousands of deadly mines, primed and ready to explode. People die every day from old mines. They might be working their fields, gathering wood for fires, clearing ground for con-

In too many places worldwide, an innocent stroll can lead to sudden death

struction or simply taking a stroll through the woods.

The mines are hidden. The simple act of disturbing a thin trip-wire which runs to a fuse is all that is needed to blow up one type. Other mines are sensitive to a footstep; still others are activated by pressure plates. There is no end to the ingenuity of the designers and manufacturers of what have been termed "weapons of mass destruction in slow motion."

According to a State Department report last year, 150 people die each week from mine explosions. Most of the casualties are civilians. The report estimated that there are between 65 million and 110 million buried land mines worldwide. Some countries are so infested that the mines have become an obstacle to development and a constant source of fear to the populace.

The two worst affected countries are Cambodia and Afghanistan, but the list of mined countries is long. In Israel, it isn't uncommon to see fenced-off areas and little yellow metal signs warning "Danger! Mines!" especially when driving in the Golan, along the Jordanian border and in Sinai.

IN RECENT conflicts, mines were used extensively.

In Somalia, in 1990, retreating troops of the old regime mined entire towns before withdrawing. In the Falkland Islands, the ground is constantly soaked, making it difficult and dangerous to try to lift the mines that were laid in the war. The British government has finally given up on its plans to remove them and has fenced off the affected areas, which include prime grazing land and beautiful beaches.

Many countries manufacture mines, but over the past decade the majority have come from three Italian companies. In 1991, employees of one of these companies were convicted of illegally selling arms and ammunition to Iraq. The order included some nine million mines.

Plastic mines are the latest development. These have very little metal content and so are very difficult to locate with metal detectors.

The Misar SB-33 litters the sand of Iraqi Kurdistan, Kuwait and the Falklands, and is state-of-the-art mine technology. The mine can be ordered in various colors to make it merge with its surroundings, and with a special coating to stop it showing up under infra-red detectors. It can be buried or dropped from the air. It will function upside down, and is waterproof.

Can old, buried mines be got rid of or neutralized?

An ideal system has not yet been developed. Mine plows aren't effective, since they tend to rebury the mines in the up-turned soil. And the flailing chains often don't get all the mines. Foams and slurries pumped over large areas do not explode all the mines, and nor do the infamous pressure bombs.

In the end, a man on his knees, working slowly and painstakingly with a metal detector and a stick is still the best solution - that is, if his nerves and hands are steady, and the mines don't get him first.

The writer is a Jerusalem-based freelancer.

Elba: Halacha permits killing of innocent Arabs

The man dubbed 'the spiritual leader of the Jewish underground,' in his first interview since being indicted, talks to Nadav Ha'etzni

RABBI Ido Elba denies there is a second Jewish underground or that he is its spiritual leader. The Kiryat Arba resident also charges that others were arrested and tortured for the purpose of incriminating him. In his first interview since his indictment and imprisonment more than four months ago, Elba speaks about his interrogation and his beliefs, including his conviction that Arabs should be killed indiscriminately.

Elba is charged with inciting to racism and encouraging violence in a halachic treatise that claims Halacha justifies attacking Arabs. He is also charged with a failed attempt at manufacturing silencers; with asking a friend to acquire a weapon; and with trying to persuade other detainees in the case not to cooperate with investigators.

Interestingly, there is no mention in his indictment of the most serious accusations: murder, assault, underground activities, or even any connection to the brothers Yehoyada and Eitan Kahalani, on trial for attempted murder.

In the months since the affair first hit the headlines, it has become apparent that, with regard to the other detainees, there is a substantial discrepancy between the original suspicions published in the media and the actual indictments.

The Kahalani brothers are the only ones charged with attempted murder, but they, like the other detainees, are not charged with any kind of underground activities.

The trials of Cpt. Oren Edri and Uri Baruch are in progress, while Eitan Mor-Yosef was given a 10-month prison sentence on Monday for making two gun silencers for Elba. No charges have been pressed against the other detainees.

Over a two-week period this reporter had several conversations with Elba in the Tel Mond prison.

It should be noted that Elba's extreme views on Arabs are unpalatable even to most of the settlers and their right-wing supporters. In

Kiryat Arba, Elba is considered fanatic in the extreme.

When were you arrested?

I was arrested on the night after Rosh Hashana, four days after the arrests of Oren Edri and the Kahalani brothers. Unlike Edri, they didn't really torture me... though they denied me sleep for a while.

The torture of Edri was intended to get him to incriminate me, because - as far as I know - they stopped torturing him the night they arrested me. They also put pressure on other detainees to incriminate me and the Kahalani brothers. The fact is that there were detainees who said various things about me and were released, though they confessed to having done things that were much more serious than what I am accused of.

How did the interrogation proceed?

They thought I was the leader of a group that had set out to attack Arabs. But they hardly talked about anything specific. They kept repeating: "We know everything. The Kahalani brothers told us everything. It's wrong for you to take responsibility." They claimed that Yudi [Yehoyada] and Eitan Kahalani had already confessed, and that I had sent them to do those things.

And what's the truth? Do you have no connection to the underground, to these murders, to attempted attacks on Arabs?

In court I said that all the charges against me are false, and so are all the claims about the underground and my involvement in these acts. There was no underground and I have no connection to any such organization. It's true that I knew the Kahalani brothers, but I certainly am not their spiritual leader. They don't need a spiritual leader. And Yudi is secular, anyway.

The others were not detained because there was an underground, but as part of an attempt to incriminate me. And it's obvious that what they



Elba: This affair is the government's plot against the people of Kiryat Arba. Rabin is known for his hatred of us. (Stein/Harari)

I understand that people under pressure say all kinds of stupid things and I don't blame them. I didn't say anything stupid because I'm a stronger person than they are.

What about the claims that there are GSS informers in Kiryat Arba? The Kahalani brothers and their lawyer publicly accused Yves Tibi, a resident who was questioned in the case, of being the main GSS informer.

These are solid accusations, and I think there are at least two others, whose names were mentioned, who were informers.

You talk on the one hand about informers, but informers have to have something to inform about.

This affair, from beginning to end, is the government's plot against the people of Kiryat Arba. Rabin is known for his hatred of us.

Are the charges against the Kahalani brothers trumped up? After all, there was prima facie evidence of an attempted murder of an Arab near Batit.

I'm not familiar with the details, but it's clear that the brothers were marked long ago. I want to remind you that Yudi Kahalani was once accused, was detained for a long time, and was finally acquitted.

Note, too, how much of a discrepancy there is between the initial suspicions of the GSS, which were leaked widely to the media, and the actual results.

These indictments are an admission that there was no underground, and that we had no connection to unsolved murders. This in itself is proof that from the start they tried to frame us.

You claim there were "foreign" considerations in the investigation.

The government is elected by Arab votes and must therefore show it is looking out for the interests of Arabs more than it is for Jews. We are returning to the Middle Ages of censorship and inquisition. Look, on the one hand, they release Arab terrorists, and on the other hand, they arrest Jews like me, they treat Yoram Shkolnik like a terrorist [he was convicted of murdering a bound terrorist near Susiya].

Nevertheless, there exists a treatise entitled "Examination of Halacha regarding the killing of a Gentile," and you are said to be its author. This

article appears to advocate attacking innocent Arabs, as revenge for the murder of Jews.

I deny that I wrote the article. But I agree with what is written in it - it is all *da'at Torah*. By the way, note that the article itself states that it is "for study, not for action."

The Gemara, in tractate *Eruvin*, decrees that one must wage war against Gentiles who attack Jews, or who even try only to harm the Jewish community. My only "crime" is that I believe one must carry out what is written.

What does "wage war" mean? Does this include private acts of revenge against Arabs, including killing?

I'm not voicing my own view, but the view of the Torah. According to the Torah, we are in a situation of *pikuah nefesh* (saving a life) in time of war, and in such a situation one may kill any Gentile.

What about innocent Arabs?

According to Halacha, there is no such thing. No Gentile on the side that is at war against us is innocent.

Does this apply to what Baruch Goldstein did?

Baruch Goldstein was a Jew whose sole interest was unbounded love of Israel. And the government is to blame for bringing him to the state he reached.

If he did what they say he did, all he did was carry out what is written: "Whoever comes to kill you, rise up to kill him." This is a simple Halacha.

The settlers have been abandoned by the government, and that is why there is no alternative but to deter the Arabs, so that they will be afraid of us. They are not afraid of the army, and one of the ways to protect our lives is to make them afraid of us.

You base your ideas on the view of the Torah, but very few, if any, well-known rabbis support your positions.

I received many responses from rabbis regarding the article attributed to me. And there is not one that contradicts my halachic analysis. There are halachic decisions that support my view. For example, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef ruled that there is no prohibition against killing Gentiles even in peacetime.

By arrangement with Ma'ariv

They arrive at the battlefield with hope; they leave in despair

Parents of Russian soldiers are flocking to Chechnya to drag their sons out of a war which they can't make sense of, Fred Hiatt reports

VVLADIMIR Sevalnikov, 59, stood alone Sunday in a vast sea of mud, staring at the spot where he had last seen his 19-year-old son more than two weeks ago. Weeping softly, he took no notice of the Grad missiles roaring overhead in thunderous volleys or the dirt-spattered armored personnel carriers rumbling past.

Sevalnikov was one of hundreds of Russian parents who have descended on the break-away region of Chechnya to find their soldier-children, to see their faces, to drag them out of war if they can. They have drained their life savings, blockaded tank columns, besieged train stations and military headquarters - all in desperate efforts to get news of their teenage sons. They waver between exasperation at the lies and evasions of the military - and fear of hearing the truth.

For Sevalnikov, the truth came Sunday, after three days' journey from his hometown in Oryol, more than 1,200 km. away, to the Chechen village of Tolstoye-Yurt, that has become a Russian military encampment. Like so many other young soldiers, Sergei, 19, had been killed in a murderous battle January 1 in the Chechen capital of Grozny, 22



An elderly Russian woman displays photographs of dead and wounded soldiers during an anti-war rally in Moscow this week. (AP)

km. to the south. No one had told Sergei's father at the time it happened; even now, no one could say where Sergei was buried.

"How can I go on living?" Sevalnikov asked no one in particular as he stared at something only he could see. "He will remain before my eyes for the rest of my days." Sevalnikov, a retired laborer, had traveled here just before the new year and managed a few words with his youngest son. He had returned home, but when by January 10 he had heard nothing more, he had to return to Chechnya. Now, like so many in Russia today, he could barely spit

out his contempt for Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Defense Minister Pavel Grachev.

"They sent these untrained boys here, and for what?" Sevalnikov asked, tears running down his cheeks. "Do I need this Chechnya, or did my son? We have enough land already."

IN RUSSIA today, Sevalnikov stands out only because he is a father, for the most part, it is Russia's mothers who have rallied to save their sons. It was Russian mothers, fiercely single-minded in their devotion, who campaigned against the Afghan

war and against brutal hazing in the army, and it is mostly mothers who are turning their wrath on Yeltsin's government today.

Hundreds of mothers have made their way to towns on the border of Chechnya, such as Mozdok 90 km. northwest of here, where a military garrison has become Russia's war headquarters. It was there, Saturday morning, that 50 or more women linked arms to block a convoy until, stymied, army officers let them on the base.

"They didn't know what else to do," said Valentina Vekshina, 49. "They had to get those

mother fears he is ill-prepared for war. But so far she knows only that his tank division was sent to Chechnya.

Even the fact that he was being shipped out Vekshina learned only from a late-night news flash on Yekaterinburg's independent television station last month. At 6 the next morning, Vekshina rushed to the train station and managed to bid her son goodbye.

She also tried to persuade her son to desert.

"I said, 'Come on, let's go. I have a car waiting,'" she recalled in the small Mozdok hotel room she is now sharing with four other mothers from her home town. "He said, 'Mama, I'm a junior sergeant, how can I leave my privates to face the bullets alone?'"

"He was crying," Vekshina added. "They were all crying. The officers didn't even try to stop them." Vekshina stayed at home, waiting for news, until the disastrous assault on Grozny on January 1. Like many Russians, she saw on television the corpses lying in the street. "A mother's heart couldn't stand it any more," she said. "We had to come."

"This time, I'll take him out whether he wants to go or not," she said.

The other mothers agreed, each in turn telling her story and each in turn crying quietly. Without information of their own, they could only repeat and magnify the painful rumors they heard - stories of army incompe-

tence on the one hand and of Chechen barbarity on the other.

For Olga Semyonovikh, such rumors hold a special terror. Until last Wednesday, she believed her soldier-son was in Rostov, out of harm's way. Then her sister called from Moscow to say that his name, Alexei Semyonovikh, 19, had shown up on a newspaper's list of prisoners of war in Chechnya.

She appealed to division headquarters and was told that her son was not in Chechnya. But that night, by chance, she received a letter he had written from the war zone December 25.

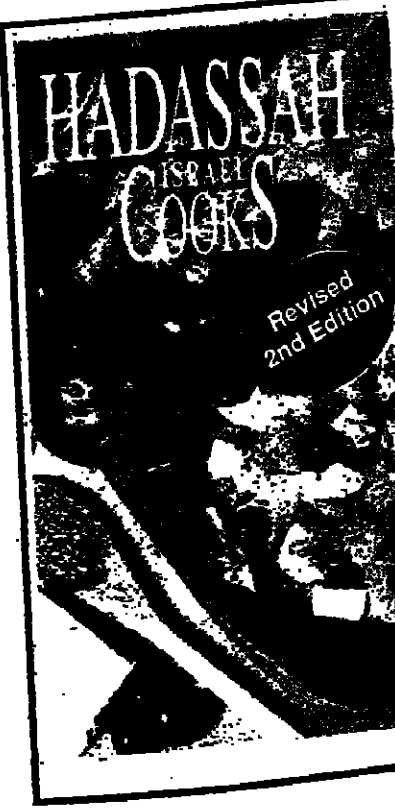
In her Mozdok hotel room, Semyonovikh unfolded the letter, already worn from handling, and traced her son's words with a finger. He was living in a tent, he had written, but the weather was not bad. She shouldn't worry. He was only sorry his New Year's leave had been canceled.

Since then, Semyonovikh has managed to find only one warrant officer from her son's division, who had returned from Grozny. Only one-tenth of her son's unit had survived, he had said. He said he did not know what had become of her son.

In the field of mud, Sergei's father, Sevalnikov, said, again to no one in particular, "I suppose it's time to go home."

But he made no move, instead weeping and staring off in the direction he had last seen his son drive away to war.

(The Washington Post)



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Income tax head admits difficulties with retroactivity of bourse tax

THERE may be cases where the income tax authorities will be unable to collect the new capital gains tax retroactively, Income Tax Commissioner Doron Levy said yesterday.

At a news conference in Jerusalem, Levy explained that as part of the process of designing the computer program, Tekem - the company chosen to map out the computer program to collect the stock market tax - determined what information the banks need to keep so it could collect the tax, once the program

is completed.

He admitted, however, that only after the research and characterization process is completed will they know for sure what information is essential.

As a result, it is possible the banks will not save some of the needed data to collect the tax, making the retroactive collection of capital gains difficult.

Following the news conference, the Treasury issued a statement saying "the stock market

JOSE ROSENFELD

tax law will be implemented from January 1, 1995, and there is no change on this subject."

The statement explained that until mid-February, the data needed from the banks to calculate the tax will be translated into operating formulas and that only then will it be possible to know how to collect the tax.

The Treasury, nevertheless, said it will have enough information to collect the tax retroactively.

Levy said the cost of mapping out the program will be \$80,000 and the programming itself \$500,000. He added that the annual cost of running the program will be from NIS 6 million to NIS 10m., depending on stock market activity, and not \$100m., as some reports would have it.

Although the tax burden rose significantly this year with the imposition of the health tax and changes to the National Insurance Institute taxes, Levy said there were no additional tax cuts on the drawing board.

THE Knesset Finance Committee will not discuss the Treasury's plans to sell Israel Chemicals until the government has passed four laws considered crucial to the company's existence, committee chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor) said yesterday.

These laws would exempt the company from a host of environmental, planning and licensing regulations.

Last Thursday, Gal had said the committee would wait for the government to consider whether it was wise for the sale to precede

ICL sale on hold until exemptions approved

EVELYN GORDON

the legislation.

However, the cabinet failed to discuss the issue at its weekly meeting on Sunday, and meanwhile, Gal said, most of the committee members agreed it would be unwise.

"To my pleasure, the Government Companies Authority has also drawn the right conclusions," he said. "And for my part, I promised that the legislation will pass as quickly as possible."

All the legislation is opposed by Environment Minister Yossi Sarid and environmental groups.

Gal also rejected the accusation attributed in the media to ICL managing director Victor Medina, that the committee was holding up the sale in response to pressure from workers' groups.

"The Finance Committee has never rejected a privatization proposal," he said. "I'm certain that after the legislation passes, the committee will approve the sale. We will find the necessary majority."

UPDATED PURCHASE TAX BRACKETS FOR DWELLINGS AND AGRICULTURAL LAND			
October 16 - January 15	%	January 16 - April 15	%
Dwellings			
Up to NIS 182,715	0.5	Up to NIS 187,890	0.5
NIS 182,716 - NIS 452,790	3.5	NIS 187,891 - NIS 465,620	3.5
Over NIS 452,790	4.5	Over NIS 465,620	4.5
Agricultural lands			
Up to NIS 139,780	0.5	Up to NIS 143,740	0.5
Over NIS 139,780	5.0	Over NIS 143,740	5.0

The new purchase tax brackets effective January 16, 1995, were adjusted 2.83% to reflect the price increase of dwellings. New immigrants, the handicapped, parents and children of war victims, Nazi persecution victims and people living in development areas qualify for the 0.5% tax with no ceiling on the purchase price of housing.

Antitrust court issues landmark ruling in Dubek case

JOSE ROSENFELD

IN a landmark antitrust court ruling yesterday, Dubek will be allowed to set up an independent cigarette distribution system only under severe restrictions aimed at protecting its competitors.

Both Monopolies Supervisor Yoram Turbowicz and Dubek lawyer Avi Weinrot claimed to be vindicated by Judge Miriam Naor's ruling.

About a year ago, Turbowicz asked the antitrust court to issue a temporary stay on Dubek's new cigarette distribution agreement to prevent the monopoly from shutting out its competitors.

Turbowicz asked the court to find that the existing distribution arrangement be preserved, as it allows for competition among suppliers.

When the court yesterday found that Dubek could set up an independent cigarette distribution system, Dubek managing director Ruth Hirsch said "this is a day for celebration at Dubek."

Weinrot said the decision was "a major blow to Turbowicz" and showed that even a monopoly is entitled to freedom of enterprise.

However, Turbowicz said the decision established a precedent for strengthening government controls on monopolies. He noted that Dubek agreed to accept several restrictions over setting up its new distribution system, as it saw that the court was about to rule against it.

By making these agreements part of the decision, the court gave them the force of a ruling, which requires monopolies to act

in good faith and restricts activities which could impede the competition's access to the market.

The decision finds that Dubek's initial move to set up an exclusive distribution system was unfair to its competitors, and Turbowicz acted properly in stopping it.

The failure to act would have left Dubek's competitors suddenly without any distributors. It could have harmed its largest competitor, the Menashe Eliachar Company - the country's largest importer - and eliminated the smaller competition.

As a result, Naor found that Dubek could not unilaterally change the distribution arrangement. Since Eliachar is large enough to set up its own distribution system, the ruling finds that Dubek has to give enough notification for its competitor to set up an alternate system.

Regarding the smaller companies, Dubek agreed to include them in its new system, since the court found that otherwise they would lose access to the market.

The small companies in question are Sakal and Davids.

In addition, Dubek is forbidden from interfering with the distributors' arrangements with the small companies. The court also forbade Dubek from setting limits on commissions the companies pay to the distributors.

According to Turbowicz, the smaller companies pay higher commissions to insure that distributors will have an interest in carrying their products.

Gov't asks Admiral to raise offer for Israel Shipyards

HAIM SHAPIRO

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin has approved a suggestion by Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar to continue negotiating with the Admiral group in an effort to raise the price they have offered for Israel Shipyards.

The request came formally from the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Privatization, which met to discuss the sale of the Shipyards yesterday.

The committee asked the Government Companies Authority to continue negotiating with Admiral for another 10 days.

The Admiral group, which includes three local and three American investors, had submitted a bid of \$9.3 million.

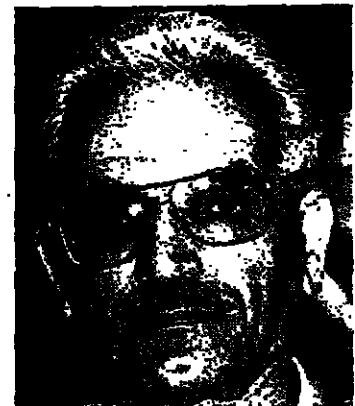
Although this was the highest offer, the government said it is too low.

According to Kessar, it is about half of what the Shipyards is really worth.

Rabin asked the state attorney yesterday to prepare a legal opinion



Rabin: Asks state attorney's opinion on state re-opening tender if talks fail. (Isaac Harni)



Kessar: Admiral's offer is about half of what the Shipyards is worth. (Eliam Harni)

concerning the possibility of the government re-opening the tender if the negotiations do not succeed.

Attorney Shmuel Tzur, the official receiver, said in the meeting there was no need to accept Admiral's bid.

Kessar insisted it was necessary to examine the group's ability to run the Shipyards as a thriving business, so it won't be resold in

the future to speculators.

It was the government's duty, he said, to ensure that in two years the workers would not be thrown out in the street, and the valuable state land on which the Shipyards stand would not fall into other hands.

Kessar insisted that the full rights of the workers be protected in case the company was eventually dissolved.

IFTRIC seeks to insure foreign investments

JOSE ROSENFELD

FINANCE Minister Avraham Shohat yesterday asked the Knesset Finance Committee to enable the Israel Foreign Trade Risk Insurance Company (IFTRIC) to insure \$200 million in foreign investments annually.

Investments by Israeli firms abroad are becoming a significant means to penetrate export markets, according to the Treasury.

As a result, Shohat is requesting to help exporters by insuring their foreign investments against political risks, as well as their actual exports.

Currently, IFTRIC only insures exports.

The criteria for risk insurance on investments will be based on the benefit the investment is supposed to bring to the country and to the exporter's business development.

Investments of Israeli firms that will be covered include trans-

fers of cash, equipment and know-how for the purchase of shares in the foreign concerns.

Such investments can expose Israeli businessmen to political risks, particularly in the new CIS republics, Eastern Europe and in new markets where Israel has had no previous commercial experience.

The insurance will cover 90 percent of the investment against the risks of nationalization, confiscation, war, revolution, civil insurrection and political acts which would prevent the company's business activity. The coverage will be granted for a maximum of six years, with an option to renew.

Exporters will pay premiums based on the risk factor for each country up to a maximum of 2% a year of the amount invested.

IFTRIC insures \$1.6 billion in exports annually.

'Tax burden should be cut before '96 budget made'

EVELYN GORDON

FINANCE Minister Avraham Shohat and the Knesset Finance Committee must have a comprehensive discussion on lowering the tax burden before the 1996 budget is drawn up, the committee's subcommittee on taxes recommended yesterday.

"We have exceeded the limits of the reasonable with respect to the tax burden as a proportion of GNP," said subcommittee chairman Avraham Poraz (Meretz). "This situation is unhealthy. It hurts growth and creates tax evasion. We must cause the tax burden to decline to 38 percent of GNP in the 1996 budget. In other words, there must be a real decrease in government expenditures of NIS 6 billion."

Currently, according to state revenues director Yoram Gabbai, Israel's tax burden is 41% of GNP, compared to 36%-37% in most of Western Europe and 31% in the US and Japan.

However, he said, the recent tax reforms will decrease taxes for about 75% of the population. Only the 25% with the highest incomes will be paying more.

However, Tzafir Ostshinsky, president of the tax counselors association, charged that in the past two years, the tax burden on the middle class has increased sharply.

He attacked the high marginal tax rate of 50% on salaries above NIS 6,000 a month, and suggested lowering it by 2%-3% a year over the next three years.

"Israel is the champion of the Western world in terms of the tax burden on the middle class," agreed Moshe Kornik, chairman of the association of the self-employed (Lahav)'s National Insurance committee.

He suggested that a law be passed limiting the tax burden as a percentage of GNP, just as there is a law limiting the deficit as a proportion of GNP.

'Private consumption rate hasn't dropped'

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE public's high rate of private consumption did not drop in December, Isracard general manager Haim Krupsky said yesterday in reaction to economic forecasts of a fall in consumption.

Isracard announced a 25 percent real increase in business turnover via Isracard credit cards last year from 1993.

An estimated 27.1% of all private consumption in the economy, excluding housing, was carried out by credit cards last year, compared with 25.4% in 1993. The average purchase via credit card was NIS 145.

Isracard also reported a 13% increase in those using credit cards.

Krupsky said Israel's credit card usage is equivalent to that in England and France but higher than in Germany, Switzerland and Italy.

"In 1994, Israelis whipped out their credit cards about 10 times per month," said Krupsky.

Gabbai leaving post in 6 months

JOSE ROSENFELD

STATE Revenues Director Yoram Gabbai will leave his post in about six months, after nearly six years of service.

Gabbai denied reports that he was resigning over differences with Finance Minister Avraham Shohat on tax policy.

Gabbai is known to have opposed the changes to the National Insurance Institute taxes, the

health tax and supported a stock market transaction tax, instead of the tax on real capital gains.

Gabbai told Shohat of his intention to leave his post two months ago, well before the controversy on the health and stock market tax erupted.

Based on that, sources rejected the linkage of the announcement to policy differences.

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS			
Patish (foreign currency deposit rates) (13.1.95)			
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	5.500	6.125	6.875
Pound sterling (£100,000)	4.500	5.250	6.125
German mark (DM 200,000)	4.500	4.250	4.750
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	2.575	3.125	3.500
Yen (¥10 million)	0.750	0.750	1.000
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (17.1.95)			
Currency basket	Buy	Sell	Banknotes
U.S. dollar	3.480	3.390	3.575
German mark	2.980	3.030	3.010
Pound sterling	1.940	1.970	2.00
French franc	4.910	4.747	4.80
Japanese yen (100)	0.584	0.574	0.58
Dutch florin	3.020	3.076	3.11
Swiss franc	1.711	1.759	1.78
Swedish krona	2.560	2.576	2.59
Denmark krone	0.4015	0.4072	0.41
Finland mark	0.4483	0.4528	0.44
Canadian dollar	0.4922	0.5022	0.51
Australian dollar	0.5519	0.5408	0.53
S. African rand	2.101	2.137	2.16
Belgian franc (10)	2.283	2.2972	2.31
Italian lira (1000)	0.8441	0.8580	0.84
Israeli sheqel (10)	0.9408	0.9301	0.93
Jordanian dinar	2.722	2.8150	2.72
Egyptian pound	1.9676	1.9858	1.92
Irish punt	—	—	—
Spanish peseta (100)	3.6954	3.7474	3.74
—	4.5322	4.5874	4.59
—	2.5484	2.5801	2.59

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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Key Representative Rates

US dollar	NIS 3.0120	-0.03%
Sterling	NIS 4.7157	-0.30%
Mark	NIS 1.9663	+0.25%

INFLATION

Year	Change
1994	4.1%
1993	3.8%
1992	3.5%
1991	3.2%
1990	2.9%
1989	2.6%
1988	2.3%
1987	2.0%
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5 arrested for London Israeli embassy attack

LONDON (AP) - Police arrested five people yesterday in connection with the bombing of the Israeli Embassy and the offices of a Jewish fund-raising group in London in July, Scotland Yard said.

Two women and three men were arrested as police executed search warrants under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, but names and nationalities were not disclosed.

But television reports said four of those arrested were Jordanians and one was Lebanese, and all were of Palestinian origin.

A car bomb heavily damaged the Israeli Embassy on July 26, injuring 14 people.

An elegantly-dressed older woman carrying a bag from Harrod's department store had been seen leaving the car just minutes before it exploded.

A report on Independent Television News said four of those arrested were Jordanians and one was Lebanese. It did not cite sources.

"We are not prepared to discuss this matter further," Scotland Yard's announcement said.

A statement from the embassy said that ambassador Moshe Raviv expressed "sincere appreciation for all the efforts made by the British government and Scotland Yard during this investigation."

The embassy would not say what role, if any, Israel played in the investigation.

A spokesman for the Israeli Embassy said the building, near Kensington Palace in west London, was still undergoing reconstruction.

"It's a heritage building, which made planning a delicate issue," said Ram Aviram. "The actual work should start in a few days, but we've still got wooden supports holding up parts of the ceiling."

A second blast in the early hours of the following day damaged Balfour House in north London. The building housed Israeli and Jewish organizations including the Joint Israel Appeal, a fund-raising group which supports causes in Israel and in the Jewish community in Britain.

No group claimed responsibility for the attacks.



Two brothers from Chechnya take in their new surroundings yesterday at Ben-Gurion Airport after being brought from the embattled region by the Jewish Agency. (Alan Ron/Israel Sun)

Yeshiva guard who killed Arab to be charged with manslaughter

POLICE are to recommend that the Jerusalem yeshiva guard who killed an Arab delivery man Monday be charged with manslaughter and aggravated assault, police sources said.

Because 31-year-old Dimitri Berman did not intentionally kill Abed Mahmoud Jalani, murder charges would not be recommended, the sources added.

Investigators have found no basis for Berman's claim that Jalani and his coworker had tried to run him over in a vehicle, forcing him to open fire on them, the sources said. The coworker was

BILL HUTMAN

lightly wounded during the shooting.

Berman, a recent immigrant from the CIS, is to be remanded today. Police are to ask that he be for 15 days, so the investigation can be completed before charges are filed, the sources said.

Yesterday, rioting broke out in the Shuafat refugee camp after the funeral of Jalani, 26, a camp resident.

Border Police fired rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse the

crowd of several hundred that gathered in the center of the camp.

Six youths were arrested by undercover policemen mixing in the crowd, witnesses said. The police spokesman, however, said the arrests were made by uniformed border policemen.

Jalani's body was returned to his family yesterday morning, and the funeral was held soon after. Jalani, who was single, was buried at the Moslem Cemetery next to the Old City's Lions Gate, after a ceremony at Akse Mosque.

16 more Jews arrive from Chechnya

RAINE MARCUS

TWO brothers, aged four and six, were among the 16 Jewish refugees who arrived here yesterday from embattled Chechnya with the help of the Jewish Agency.

As they entered Ben-Gurion Airport, the two carried toy rifles which they said they had so "no one can hurt us."

Oksana Kurbatskaya, 16, seemed to be in a state of shock as she told reporters how she had escaped from her home in Grozny. The last time Oksana saw her mother, who was apparently killed in the city, was more than two weeks ago.

"I asked a cousin to help me look for her, but there were piles of bodies strewn in the streets, with no one to bury them, and we didn't know where to start looking," she said through an interpreter as she stepped off the Aeroflot flight yesterday afternoon.

Perfect makeup could not hide Oksana's distress as she told how she hitched rides from Grozny until she reached Nalchik near the northern border. There she was helped by Jewish Agency officials and given clothing, food and documents.

At one stage in her journey, she said, she walked 15 kilometers in snow and freezing conditions. "Kind people," she added, gave her food and clothing.

Haim Chesler, the head of the agency's activities in the CIS, said he had met Oksana in Nalchik and had promised her they would meet again, "sooner than you think."

Chesler said he estimated that around 12 Jewish families are still in Grozny and about 50-100 refugees in Nalchik. Last month, 32

Chechen Jews arrived here.

The agency is doing everything possible to help with their immigration. Some, though, still live in hope that the fighting will end, said Chesler.

Over the last few days, Chechen Jews have been wounded in the carnage, and Chesler said the next rescue flight may contain wounded refugees.

At the airport, the group of immigrants, carrying possessions they had managed to salvage in plastic bags and boxes, looked exhausted and bewildered, but most said they were happy to be here.

Igor Timachenko, 35, a bus driver, arrived with his wife and two daughters.

"Now we can start to feel alive again," he said. "I just want to find a job and live normally."

Advanced security system planned for Temple Mount

BILL HUTMAN

JERUSALEM police plan to install an electric fence atop the walls of the Temple Mount, including over the Western Wall, to improve security there, *The Jerusalem Post* has learned.

A closed-circuit television system is also to be installed on the Temple Mount, to give security forces a view of what is happening there at all times.

Wakf and other Moslem officials in the city have already been consulted about the moves.

On Monday, the Higher Islamic Council met to discuss them, and issued a statement rejecting the installation of a closed-circuit television system. The statement did not address the electric fence, and the subject was apparently not raised at the meeting.

Jerusalem police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby declined to comment on the council's public stand, saying police had not yet been officially informed of the Moslem leaders' position.

The spokesman confirmed police planned to install an electric fence and closed-circuit television system at the holy site, and take other security measures which he declined to specify.

Jerusalem police have been considering various security options for the Temple Mount after the Machpela Cave massacre last year raised questions about measures in effect on the mount.

The electric fence is aimed at preventing intruders from sneaking into the holy site, with the section over the Western Wall meant to keep Arabs from throwing things at Jewish worshippers below.

Wakf director Adnan Hussein said that police approached the Wakf about installing closed-circuit television after Arab youths were caught having snuck onto the Temple Mount at night around two months ago.

Hussein noted that the Wakf had already rejected an earlier police plan to install metal detectors at the Temple Mount gates.

"We don't want anything changed at Al-Aksa," Hussein said. "What the police needs to do is to go after the [Jewish] extremists [who have recently tried to pray on the Temple Mount] and put them in jail," he said.

Hussein said the television cameras would prove worthless because they would be viewed by Moslem worshippers as a provocation, and would be destroyed shortly after being installed.

Elul joins Shetreet, Dayan in rebelling against gov't policy

YET another rebellion erupted in Labor's ranks yesterday, as Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was still grappling with Monday's rebellion by Economics Minister Shimon Shetreet, as well as the ongoing problem of faction chairman Eli Dayan.

Shetreet, on Monday, announced the formation of a public lobbying group to work for changes in the stock market tax. Many Labor MKs and ministers were outraged, saying a minister could not openly work against the government and still retain his post.

Meanwhile, MK Rafi Elul (Labor) yesterday declared his own

war on an aspect of government policy: the proposed cut of NIS 200 million from social programs, as part of the cuts approved by the cabinet on Sunday.

Together with David Mena (Likud), Elul yesterday held a meeting with MKs from both parties and representatives of various associations to organize their campaign against the government. MKs in attendance were Yoram Lass (Labor), Michael Eitan (Likud), Yossi Vanunu (Labor) and Taleb A-Sanaa (DAP).

"[We have to] fight this NIS 200m. cut from the welfare budgets," he told the representatives of the organizations. "For

EVELYN GORDON

this, we need your backing. We need your help."

"What's happening here is unbelievable!" Eitan said, as Elul spoke. "Rafi Elul is sitting here and preparing an intifada against the government!"

The Elul rebellion is considered small potatoes compared to either Shetreet's or Dayan's, due to their more senior positions in the party. However, it shows that the trick pioneered by Dayan - working with the opposition to pressure the government - is rapidly gaining currency.

Rabin responded to his party's

pleas that he deal with Shetreet only by saying he was not prepared to respond in public at this time. He would find the "right time and place" to handle Shetreet, he said.

Shetreet has also gathered a bipartisan group to support him, including David Levy and Yacov Shamai (Likud), Yoram Lass, Yossi Vanunu and Sallah Tarif (Labor) and Avraham Ravitz (UTJ). There are another nine Labor MKs who did not attend his Monday conference, but who did sign on to his proposals: That the stock market tax apply only to stocks purchased after January 1; that stocks held for at

least two years be exempt, up to a limit of NIS 500,000; that small investors be allowed to offset losses without filing a report if they hold all their stocks in one portfolio at one bank; and that foreign investors be exempt.

Shetreet insisted that this is not a "rebellion"; it is in line with the government's own decision to observe the workings of the law for the sake of determining necessary changes. His group, he said, exists merely to collect information and be a forum for opinions.

However, many Labor MKs consider the issue to be an acid test of Rabin's leadership - a quality many say is lacking.

Knesset panel: Cuts in women's army service promotes inequality

LIAT COLLINS

REDUCING mandatory national service for women will promote inequality, according to members of the Knesset Committee for the Status of Women.

"Every change for the worst in the length of service for women in the IDF exacerbates problems of inequality between the sexes in society and the workplace," said committee chairwoman MK Naomi Chazan (Meretz). "By cutting the period at their disposal for training, women will be re-

duced to little more than coffee ladies serving male officers."

The session was attended by the head of the Women's Corps, Brig-Gen. Israela Oran.

Chazan called the decision to cut the length of women's service to 19 months "discriminatory" and "harmful to the status of women." The committee demanded that any cut in service time not affect the placement of

female soldiers in high-quality positions.

Chazan and MK Naomi Blumenthal asked Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, in his capacity as defense minister, to bring all proposals about women's army service to the committee's attention before making a decision.

Meanwhile, the Knesset plenum also addressed women's issues yesterday, with a special session marking the 75th anniversary of WIZO.

Wallenberg praised in Knesset on anniversary of arrest

LIAT COLLINS, AMIR ROZENBLIT and news agencies

KNESSET Speaker Shevah Weiss opened yesterday's plenum session with a tribute to Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who saved thousands of Hungarian Jews from certain death in 1944 by providing them with Swedish papers and safe houses.

"I don't think there is another figure in our history who saved so many lives," Weiss said.

"A few months ago, most of us experienced viewing the cinematic drama about Schindler's deeds," Weiss continued. "From time to time we hear with awe about the heroism of the Righteous Gentiles, who did the bravest, loftiest and most heroic deeds possible. Raoul Wallenberg stands above them all."

At another event marking the 50th anniversary of Wallenberg's arrest by the Soviets, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev released rare documents and testimonies from nine people who were saved by the Swedish diplomat.

Retired Supreme Court Justice Moshe Bejski, who recently resigned as head of the Yad Va-

shem committee the researchers and honors Righteous Gentiles, spoke of Wallenberg's heroism to the gathering, which included Swedish, American, Canadian and Hungarian diplomats.

In Stockholm, family members and national leaders also marked the anniversary of his arrest and disappearance.

"His deed teaches us how important it is that individuals stand up for the principles that we in the world community want to protect," Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson said. "Under the short period of time, Raoul Wallenberg acted in Budapest, he left his mark on world history."

In Moscow, Russian authorities reiterated that they will keep working to clear up the mystery about Wallenberg's fate. In the past, Moscow insisted Wallenberg died of a heart attack in 1947, but there have been persistent reports that he was seen alive after that date.

There were also ceremonies marking the anniversary elsewhere in Europe, and in the US Congress and Australia.

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